The Washington Post

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Cloudy 57/41 • Tomorrow: Rain 49/40 **B8**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 · **$3**

Lawyers for Trump turn over more items

Found in storage unit, material marked as classified was sent to FBI

This article is by Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Spencer S. Hsu, Devlin Barrett and Rosalind S. Helderman

Lawyers for Donald Trump found at least two items marked classified after an outside team hired by Trump searched a storage unit in West Palm Beach, Fla., used by the former president, according to people familiar with the matter.

Those items were immediately turned over to the FBI, according to those people, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

The search was one of at least three searches for classified materials conducted by an outside team at Trump properties in recent weeks, after Trump's legal team was pressed by a federal judge to attest that it had fully complied with a May grand jury subpoena to turn over all materials bearing classified markings, according to people familiar with the matter.

There has been a lengthy and fierce battle between Trump's attorneys and the Justice Department in a Washington federal court in recent weeks, according to people familiar with the matter. Much of the legal wrangling remains under seal by a federal

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A6**

Lawsuit: Court examines line between speech, incitement. **A6**



PHOTOS BY SERHIY MORGUNOV FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Constant shelling, no coffee

Ukrainian troops face newly mobilized Russian fighters — and front-line privations — as they advance into Luhansk

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN
IN KREMINNA, UKRAINE

Deep in the forest and less than a mile from enemy Russian positions, the sound of incoming artillery landing nearby thunders every few minutes. The landscape is littered with unexploded ordnance, so the Ukrainian soldiers don't dare step anywhere they have not before. They pack light because they might be on the move quickly — forward, they hope.

In their cramped, hastily dug mud outpost, they apologize that they only have tea — no room for coffee.

A commander manning one of Ukraine's forward-most positions did not flinch at the roar of shells crashing close by as he zoomed in on his tablet to show how Kyiv's forces in the area have advanced within five miles of Kreminna — an occupied stronghold for the Russian military and potential gateway for the Ukrainian forces as they press into the eastern Luhansk region.

"We've pushed them back, and now we just need to take their logistical routes," said the deputy battalion commander in the Ukrainian National Guard's 5th Slobozhanska Brigade, whom The Washington Post agreed to

SEE **UKRAINE** ON **A12**

Prisoners of war: Newly freed captives describe abuse by Russian forces. **A13**



TOP: Crew members start the engine of a tank on the front lines in eastern Ukraine on Sunday. ABOVE: A Ukrainian soldier has a smoke near a vehicle that is waiting for wounded soldiers. Even the route for evacuating the injured is dangerous.

Calls for new path for GOP after loss

SOME BLAME TRUMP FOR PICKING WALKER

Senate defeat in Georgia fuels autopsy by party

BY COLBY ITKOWITZ, HANNAH KNOWLES AND DYLAN WELLS

Herschel Walker's loss in a pivotal Georgia Senate race Tuesday has renewed Republican calls to break with former president Donald Trump and rethink the party's strategy ahead of 2024, as lawmakers and operatives reckoned with the final blow in a profoundly disappointing midterm cycle.

The recriminations were swift as Republicans began the autopsy of Walker's race on Wednesday, sparring over who and what cost them the seat. Many blamed Trump for urging Walker, a former football star with no political experience and a slew of allegations about his personal life, to run for the Senate against Democratic Sen. Raphael G. Warnock, betting on his celebrity in a high-stakes midterm election in which Republicans needed to net just one seat to take the majority.

Republican operatives raised concerns about spending deficits, on-the-ground strategy and the

SEE **GEORGIA** ON **A7**

'Sigh of relief': Senate Democrats tout their newfound power. **A7**

Monica Hesse: A slow-moving, inevitable Walker train wreck. **C1**

Loudoun schools chief is fired after investigation

BY HANNAH NATANSON

The Loudoun County Public Schools board fired Superintendent Scott Ziegler shortly after the release of a state grand jury report that blasted school leaders for their handling of two sexual assaults by the same student last year — and that called Ziegler a liar.

The board fired Ziegler via unanimous vote shortly after a 2½-hour closed-session meeting Tuesday night, according to school video posted online. Loudoun schools spokesman Wayde Byard confirmed the firing in an interview Wednesday morning but declined to characterize the board's rationale, including whether the termination was a direct response to the grand jury report.

News of Ziegler's firing was first reported by ABC7 News. The former superintendent could not be reached for comment Wednesday; his Loudoun email addresses are

SEE **SUPERINTENDENT** ON **A16**

Disabled and left waiting for assistance

Crushing backlogs in Social Security state offices leave more than a million in limbo



JESSICA TEZAK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dale and Sandra-Kay Pearson rest last month outside a hospital in Knoxville, Tenn. They are living in their car as they await a second ruling on her benefits request, filed 15 months ago.

BY LISA REIN

The Disability Determination Division in Austin was at a breaking point.

Inside its vast two-story warehouse, close to 130,000 claims were awaiting review by the state employees who help decide whether Texans will get disability benefits from the Social Security Administration — a backlog that would take at least a year to clear. Nearly 40 percent of the examiners had quit since January, driven out by crushing workloads and low wages that could not compete in the high-tech boomtown. Those who stayed toiled in long rows of cubicles or at home reviewing massive medical files.

Then, one week in September, came the unthinkable: 75,000 new claims suddenly were routed to an electronic queue already buckling under 2½ years of strain during the coronavirus pandemic.

SEE **SOCIAL SECURITY** ON **A8**

Justices question shift in election authority

BY ROBERT BARNES AND ANN E. MARIMOW

A majority of Supreme Court justices on Wednesday seemed reluctant to conclude that state legislators may manipulate congressional district lines and set federal voting rules without any oversight from state courts, after nearly three hours of debate over what would be a fundamental change in the way elections are conducted.

But some justices also indicated they believed state courts could be restrained from becoming too big a player in election decisions — at some point when "the state court would not be acting as a court but would be acting more as a legislature," in the words of Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

Under the theory advanced by North Carolina's Republican legislative leaders, state lawmakers throughout the country could

SEE **COURT** ON **A4**

IN THE NEWS



BORIS ROESSLER/DPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

German conspiracy Police arrested 25 people, including an aristocrat, over a far-right plot to overthrow the government. A14

Peru impeachment President Pedro Castillo was ousted after trying to dissolve congress, which had been set to debate his removal. A14

THE NATION

Multiple missteps during the prison transfer of notorious mobster Whitey Bulger led to his death, a Justice Department probe found. A2

The former president and COO of Theranos, Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, was sentenced to almost 13 years in prison. A2

Oakland teens in 2020 won the right to vote in school board races, but they were disenfranchised anyway because the changes were not implemented. A3

Democrats ramped up a probe of Trump adviser Jared Kushner's diplomatic actions at the time of a family business deal. A4

Congress is poised to strip away the requirement that all military personnel be vaccinated against the coronavirus. A20

THE WORLD

A sacred mountain in Venezuela is being destroyed by unauthorized gold miners, with satellite images showing the extent of the ruin. A10

Turkey is holding up Finland's and Sweden's NATO entry, highlighting strains within the alliance. A11

In the wake of countrywide protests, China eased its rules on coronavirus testing and health passes. A14

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Apple will allow iCloud backups to be fully encrypted worldwide after attempts to breach cloud providers and the threat of hackers, the company announced. A15

THE REGION

A Virginia county has delayed a vote to deed a small plot of public land to a private group to protect a Confederate statue. B1

An FBI agent who was off duty shot and killed a man during an altercation on a platform at the Metro Center train station, police said, prompting delays and brief panic. B1

Members of Congress and other Virginia dignitaries paid their respects to Rep. A. Donald McEachin at his funeral in Richmond. B1

Catholic University has named a dining room after "Ms. Willie," a beloved cafeteria worker for nearly 50 years. B1

Maryland students are reaching pre-pandemic levels in English language arts but falling behind in math, state test results show. B5

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING

Poinsettia tips

Here are some pointers from experts on caring for the tropical plant throughout the holiday season and beyond.

STYLE

A pounding at their door

They brought their sick baby to a hospital. Three days later, the state took their children away. **C1**

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CORRECTIONS

• A Dec. 6 Page One article about two retired Air Force generals seeking to work as consultants in Azerbaijan incorrectly said that Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is owned by the U.S. government. In fact, the broadcaster is a nonprofit corporation supervised by an independent government agency and funded by Congress.

• A National Digest item in the Dec. 6 A-section about the arrest of former congressman David Rivera incorrectly said he was arrested at Atlanta's airport. The Associated Press has since corrected its report to state that Rivera was arrested in Atlanta, but not at the airport.

The Washington Post is committed to correcting errors that appear in the newspaper. Those interested in contacting the paper for that purpose can:
Email: corrections@washpost.com.
Call: 202-334-6000, and ask to be connected to the desk involved — National, Foreign, Metro, Style, Sports, Business or any of the weekly sections. Comments can be directed to The Post's reader advocate, who can be reached at 202-334-7582 or readers@washpost.com.

Missteps in prison transfer led to Bulger's death, report finds

Boston mobster was killed by fellow inmates in W.Va. facility in 2018

BY PERRY STEIN

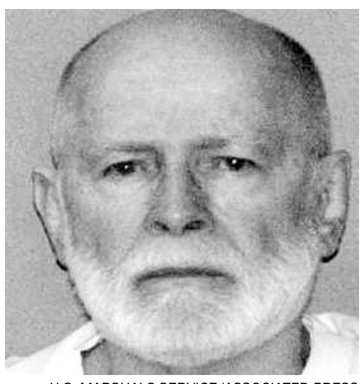
Bureaucratic incompetence and confusing policies contributed to the death of notorious Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger less than 12 hours after officials transferred him from a prison in Florida to another in West Virginia, according to a report released Wednesday from the Justice Department's inspector general.

The inspector general determined that security protocols were breached and that many inmates knew Bulger would be arriving before his transfer, with some reportedly betting money on how long he would survive once he arrived.

Bulger, who used a wheelchair and had serious heart problems, died at age 89 in October 2018. He was found badly bludgeoned in his prison bed. Three people have been charged in connection with his death.

Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz wrote in the report that he found no evidence that Bureau of Prisons staff intentionally tried to put Bulger in harm's way, though the report does not serve as a criminal investigation.

Ultimately, the lengthy report found that there were errors at every step of the transfer and that existing policies were confusing and failed to protect inmates. The



U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Department of Justice inspector general found that prison transfer policies failed to protect Whitey Bulger.

inspector general recommended that at least six Bureau of Prisons employees be disciplined for their actions leading up to the killing of Bulger.

"The fact that the serious deficiencies we identified occurred in connection with a high-profile inmate like Bulger was especially concerning given that the BOP would presumably take particular care in handling such a high-profile inmate's case," the report reads. "We found that did not occur here, not because of malicious intent or failure to comply with BOP policy, but rather because of staff and management performance failures; bureaucratic incompetence; and flawed, confusing, and insufficient policies, and procedures."

Bulger, the report found, should never have been transferred to U.S. Penitentiary Hazelton in West Virginia because it was not designated as a medical facility equipped to meet his significant needs.

The report also found emails and at least one phone record showing how Hazelton inmates discussed Bulger's arrival before his transfer — even though it is against policy to release that information for security reasons. All the while, many of staff members interviewed said they did not know who he was when he transferred so did not take any additional precautions.

"If i [sic] dont [sic] call you tomorrow than we are locked down for probably 30 days cause we got word whitey bulger [sic] is coming to the yard tonight," one Hazelton inmate wrote to someone before Bulger had arrived.

Bulger's reign as Boston's most brutal gangster spanned three tumultuous decades. He was an FBI informant, recruited to snitch on his Mafia rivals, and he later landed on the bureau's Most Wanted list after fleeing ahead of an impending grand jury indictment. During his time as a fugitive, Bulger prompted a congressional inquiry and inspired Hollywood villains. He spent more than 16 years on the run before he was arrested in California in 2011.

He served much of his sentence at U.S. Penitentiary Coleman II in Florida. But officials there wanted him transferred after he threatened a nurse. Because of that, the report said, he spent eight months in what could essentially be considered solitary confinement. Toward the end of his time at Coleman, he told a mental health worker during a suicide risk assessment that he had lost the will to live.

Officials, according to the report, failed to properly document his health issues when they filled out the paperwork to transfer him.

> *"The fact that the serious deficiencies we identified occurred in connection with a high-profile inmate like Bulger was especially concerning."*
>
> **DOJ inspector general report**

When Bulger filled out paperwork for the transfer, he said he wanted to be in the general population instead of in solitary. He also said he was not an FBI informant — something that was false and should have been caught by officials, the report said. Inmates reportedly knew of this and started calling him a "rat" for about an hour after he arrived.

While many prison staffers said they were unaware of Bulger's history, one Hazelton manager requested that Bulger be assigned to his unit, even though there was "at least one other former organized crime associate in the unit." The manager told the inspector general's office that he felt he was best prepared and qualified to handle Bulger.

"He stated that no concerns 'were expressed to me. None that I was aware of,'" the report read. "He further explained that the unit in which Bulger was placed was "one of the only units that had cell availability for non-gang affiliated white inmates."

The Bureau of Prisons did not designate the Winter Hill Gang — which Bulger was notoriously associated with — as a gang. That meant Bulger's transfer did not trigger the typical intelligence assessment reserved for gang members, which would have helped determine whether Bulger should have been separated from any inmates for safety reasons based on his gang affiliation.

The report noted that while there were two "associates," of organized crime families at Hazelton at the time of Bulger's transfer, none were affiliated with Massachusetts crime families or gang members.

Bulger's death was one of several violent prisoner deaths at the facility that year, and the high-profile homicide drew increased scrutiny to Hazelton's history of complaints about inadequate staffing and a lack of control. As a long-outed FBI-collaborator, Bulger had a target on his back, and his family believed he was "deliberately placed in harm's way."

His relatives filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the Justice Department in 2020, asserting Bulger was "perhaps the most infamous and well-known inmate" since Al Capone and accusing officials of not sufficiently protecting him. A federal judge dismissed the suit earlier this year.

Former Theranos key executive sentenced to nearly 13 years

Elizabeth Holmes's ex-partner convicted on 12 fraud-related charges

BY RACHEL LERMAN

Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, the onetime second-in-command to disgraced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes, was sentenced to nearly 13 years in prison Wednesday as the saga of the blood-testing start-up draws to a close.

Balwani, the company's former president and chief operating officer, was convicted earlier this year on 12 counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Federal District Judge Edward J. Davila sentenced him in San Jose on Wednesday, according to the Associated Press.

Balwani received a slightly harsher sentence than his former partner. Holmes, the once high-flying CEO of Theranos, was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison last month after being found guilty on four counts of misleading investors about the company's technology and business.

"It clearly sends a signal to Silicon Valley that puffery and fraud and misrepresentation will be prosecuted, there will be consequences and the end result is potentially decades in prison," said Michael Weinstein, chairman of the white-collar criminal defense group at law firm Cole Schotz, who has been following the case.

Theranos was once valued at $9 billion, with an ambitious goal to make health care more affordable and accessible to the masses.



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Sunny Balwani, former president and COO of Theranos, received a slightly harsher sentence than CEO Elizabeth Holmes.

It made a small device to process blood samples, purporting to be able to run hundreds of tests from just a few drops of patient's blood.

But during Holmes's lengthy trial, testimony showed that the technology could only run about a dozen blood tests, and its results were erratic. Theranos often relied on traditional testing machines made by outside companies. A Wall Street Journal investigation in 2015 and regulatory investigations exposed the misleading claims, leading to a stunning reputational fall for Holmes, Balwani and the company.

Theranos shuttered in 2018, after Holmes and Balwani left the start-up.

Juries in the trials of Holmes and Balwani concluded that both of them misled investors. Theranos had attracted prominent businesspeople and statesmen as investors or board directors, including George Shultz, Henry Kissinger, Rupert Murdoch and Larry Ellison.

> *"We are disappointed with the outcome. We respectfully disagree and plan to appeal."*
>
> **Jeffrey Coopersmith,** Sunny Balwani's attorney

Balwani was also convicted of defrauding patients who used the technology, which was available for a short period of time at some drugstores.

"We are disappointed with the outcome," Balwani's attorney Jeffrey Coopersmith said in a statement after the sentence was handed down. "We respectfully disagree and plan to appeal."

After their fall from grace, Theranos, Holmes and Balwani became the subjects of high-profile media portrayals of Silicon Valley greed and fraud, including a Hulu series, an HBO documentary, a best-selling book and multiple podcasts.

Holmes was the founder and CEO of the company, while Balwani served as a second-in-command for years, but the judge did not determine that either Holmes or Balwani was the definitive leader in the conspiracy.

Legal experts say Balwani's sentence is on the higher-end for white-collar criminals. It's also somewhat unusual for a person "lower down in the corporate hierarchy in a criminal conspiracy" to receive a harsher sentence, said former federal prosecutor Jason Linder, who is now a partner at corporate law firm Mayer Brown and has been following the case.

Balwani's lawyers requested probation or home confinement for him, arguing that he did not profit from Theranos and believed in the company he was helping to build. They also suggested Holmes was the central figure at Theranos, not Balwani.

"To begin, Mr. Balwani did not start Theranos," lawyers wrote in his sentencing filing. "He was never Theranos' most significant shareholder. He did not conceive the blood-testing technology that drove the company's promise. And he did not have the final say on Theranos' strategy."

Balwani and Holmes were originally charged together, but their cases were severed after Holmes accused Balwani of abusing her while they were in a romantic relationship. He has denied the allegations.

Balwani had significant responsibilities within Theranos, including managing the biotech's ultimately doomed relationship with Walgreens, supervising the company's labs and overseeing some of its finances and relationships with investors, the trial revealed.

He was already an experienced software entrepreneur when he first met Holmes on a trip in China during the summer before she started college. The pair later struck up a romantic relationship and continued dating while he was working at the start-up.

Holmes appealed her verdict earlier this month. Her legal team wrote in a filing that the "record is teeming with issues for appeal."

Holmes cited several possible reasons for appeal, filings show, including the judge's decision to exclude certain testimony from Balwani and to allow information about the start-up voiding test results in 2016, after many events of the case had occurred. Her appeal probably will face an "uphill battle" in court, Linder said.

Her lawyers also asked the court to allow Holmes to remain out of prison while the issue of the appeal is settled, arguing that she is not a flight risk or a danger to anyone's safety. The judge has not yet ruled on the request.

DIGEST

TEXAS

Boy, 12, charged with murder in fatal crash

A 12-year-old boy has been arrested and charged with murder in a hit-and-run car crash that killed an 82-year-old woman last month, Dallas police said Wednesday.

Police said the boy was behind the wheel of a gray sedan that struck Florence Kelly as she was driving in north Dallas on Nov. 7. Police did not identify the child by name and it was not immediately clear whether he has a lawyer who could speak for him.

Kelly's car was struck by the speeding Toyota Avalon around 11 a.m. as she was pulling into an intersection on her way to get groceries, according to WFAA-TV. Kelly was taken to a hospital after the crash and died of her injuries.

Doorbell-camera footage released by investigators shows a group of people leaving the Toyota after the crash. Kelly's daughter, Rebekka Kelly, told the Dallas television station that the group did not call 911 after the collision.

After the crash, police said they found a 13-year-old girl inside Toyota who was unable to escape after the collision.

— Associated Press

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MASSACHUSETTS

Nantucket's topless beaches get state nod

A bylaw that allows anyone, regardless of gender, to go topless on Nantucket's beaches has been approved by the Massachusetts attorney general's office.

The Gender Equality on Beaches bylaw amendment passed 327-242 at the resort island's town meeting in May, but the attorney general's office had to review the measure to ensure that it did not conflict with the state constitution.

The town has the authority to choose what activities it allows on its beaches, the attorney general's office wrote in its decision, made public Tuesday.

"We approve the Town's vote authorizing any person to go topless on any public or private beach in Nantucket because we discern no conflict" with the constitution, the ruling said.

The bylaw was originally proposed by seventh-generation Nantucket resident Dorothy Stover.

"Really this is righting a wrong — catching up to what was already legal for men, allowing the space for all bodies to be topless," Stover told WBZ-AM radio.

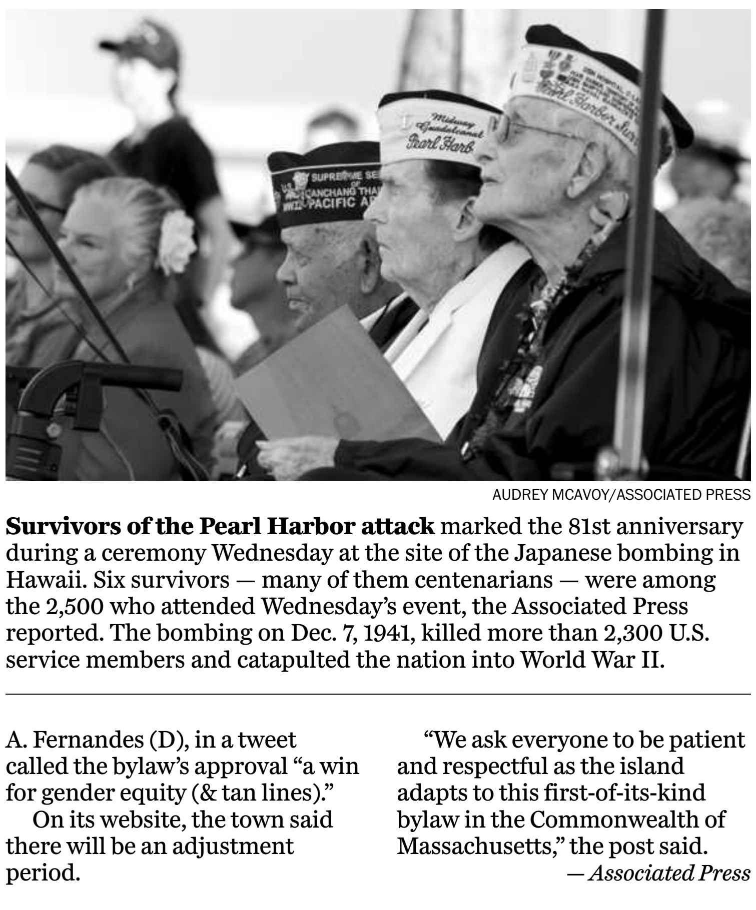
She had previously said her hope was to normalize bodies of all shapes and sizes and foster an environment of acceptance.

The state lawmaker who represents the island, Rep. Dylan A. Fernandes (D), in a tweet called the bylaw's approval "a win for gender equity (& tan lines)."

On its website, the town said there will be an adjustment period.

"We ask everyone to be patient and respectful as the island adapts to this first-of-its-kind bylaw in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," the post said.

— Associated Press



AUDREY MCAVOY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack marked the 81st anniversary during a ceremony Wednesday at the site of the Japanese bombing in Hawaii. Six survivors — many of them centenarians — were among the 2,500 who attended Wednesday's event, the Associated Press reported. The bombing on Dec. 7, 1941, killed more than 2,300 U.S. service members and catapulted the nation into World War II.

POLITICS & THE NATION

Teens who won right to vote are disenfranchised anyway

16-year-olds fought to have a voice, but changes were never implemented

BY MORIAH BALINGIT

OAKLAND, CALIF. — If all had gone as planned, thousands of high-schoolers in Oakland would have cast their ballots for the first time on Election Day. Many of them had worked since their freshman year to lower the voting age to 16 for school board races, arguing that no one had a higher stake in who led their district. And they won, persuading a supermajority of the electorate in 2020 to expand voting rights to younger teens.

But Alameda County, which runs the city's elections, never implemented the measure. It also failed to deliver on a 2016 ballot initiative from Berkeley that did the same thing. So, Tuesday passed like election days past: with 16- and 17-year-olds watching from the sidelines.

"It was a step closer to a right to vote," said Rochelle Berdan, 17, who worked on the Oakland campaign. They said their peers were given "false hope" that the high-schoolers would finally have a voice. "It's always the adults making decisions on behalf of us. ... We deserve to have a say in the things that impact us."

In a cycle when many feared vote tampering, interference and intimidation from right-wing activists, it was a textbook case of voter suppression: Teens who had worked hard to win the franchise were denied the right to vote, a failure that also thwarted the will of 67 percent of voters in Oakland and 70 percent in Berkeley. The 2022 election *did* see widespread disenfranchisement — in the deep-blue Bay Area.

Neither Alameda County Registrar Tim Dupuis nor Deputy Registrar Cynthia Cornejo returned multiple requests for comment. But Cornejo told the California education news outlet EdSource in August that the office had worked on the measure but had run out of time.

"In a perfect world, this would be easy to implement. But we want to make sure we do it right," Cornejo said. "I completely understand how frustrated people are. We all hoped this would be done sooner. ... We've done a lot of work on this already, and it's going well. We're very close."

The measures in Oakland and Berkeley didn't specify a deadline for implementation. Oakland Unified School District hired two consultants in October 2021 to help the registrar with the rollout, but the office was still unable to complete its work in time for ballots to be issued. The office expects to be ready in time for the 2024 election, according to Joshua R. Daniels, the chief governance officer for the district.

For teens like Arista, though, it's too late.



PHOTOS BY MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Ixchel Arista, 17, right, moderates a debate for Oakland School Board members and candidates during a student-organized forum at Fremont High School in October. After Alameda County's failure to enfranchise 16- and 17-year-olds, Arista — instead of going to the polls — went to dance class to rehearse a routine for a climate justice rally.



The Oakland Students School Board Forum at Fremont High School. In Oakland, young activists have long known how to flex their power. They pulled off the extraordinary, pushing a city council already harried by the pandemic to add a ballot measure lowering the voting age.

"16- and 17-year-olds are legally permitted to work and drive. They also pay federal income taxes. I believe that it is right and fair to also allow them to vote."

Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), who has proposed a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 16 for federal elections

A nationwide fight to lower the voting age

Activists across the country are fighting to lower the voting age for local elections, but they have succeeded only in the Bay Area and in Maryland, where five cities — Takoma Park, Hyattsville, Greenbelt, Riverdale Park and Mount Rainer — permit 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections. Last year, Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) proposed a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 16 for federal elections.

"16- and 17-year-olds are legally permitted to work and drive," Meng said in a news release. "They also pay federal income taxes. I believe that it is right and fair to also allow them to vote."

For young people fighting to lower the voting age, the ballot box lets them hold people who control so much of their lives — members of the school board — to account. But proponents also say that it could improve overall turnout in future elections. They point out that 16- and 17-year-olds often still live at home and attend school, giving them access to adults who can help them register to vote.

Research by political scientists has found that voting is a habit: A person who starts casting ballots while young is likelier to continue the practice for life. A 2002 paper by Pennsylvania State University professor Eric Plutzer in the American Political Science Review described how most people, at some point in their lives, become habitual voters — which is why the oldest Americans have the highest turnout rates. The teen-voting provisions can jump-start that shift.

"At 16, that's the ideal age to develop the habit for democratic participation," said Andrew Wilkes, the chief policy and advocacy officer of Generation Citizen.

A more engaged electorate is also less likely to fall prey to extremism and conspiracy theories, because there are more moderating voices, argues Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, the director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University.

"When these narratives start to dominate the community, and it's amplified by a minority of the voices that happen to have a lot of time and really loud megaphones, then people who don't think they're responsible for their own destiny in the community remain silent," Kawashima-Ginsberg said.

Nonparticipation is a problem across all ages — in 2016, nearly 100 million eligible Americans did not cast a ballot for president, about 43 percent of the total electorate, according to a report by the Knight Foundation. But it has historically been particularly acute among the youngest voters. Since at least 1980, voters 18-29 have had the lowest turnout among all age groups in presidential elections, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Generation Z offers hope that this could change. In 2020, half of eligible people between the ages of 18 to 29 voted in the presidential election, an 11-point jump from 2016, according to Tufts's CIRCLE. That was among the highest rates for that age group since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1972. This generation also appears to be more civically engaged. In a poll CIRCLE took before the 2020 election, 27 percent of young people aged 18 to 24 said they had attended a march or protest, up from 5 percent in pre-election 2016. There is evidence that large-scale protests can contribute to an increase in youth voter registration.

A youth movement with muscle

In Oakland, young activists have long known how to flex their power. After the murder of George Floyd, teenagers organized the city's major rallies against police brutality, including a 1,000-person march that ended at the doorstep of the mayor. They then pressed the school board into removing police officers from schools and helped officials craft a detailed plan to boost the achievement of Black students who face disproportionate rates of academic failure and suspension.

So it was unsurprising when they pulled off the extraordinary, pushing a city council already harried by the pandemic to add a ballot measure lowering the voting age. To avoid spreading the coronavirus, they skipped door-to-door canvassing, opting instead to dial prospective voters by phone. And despite the city's reputation as a liberal hotspot, passing the measure was hardly a guarantee: A measure in San Francisco to lower the voting age to 16 for all city elections narrowly failed in 2018 and again in 2020. Youth in Culver City, Calif., also got a measure on the ballot to lower the voting age to 16 for city and school board races this year. The measure lost by 16 votes.

For Ixchel Arista, a 17-year-old Oakland High senior who worked on the Oakland Youth Vote campaign beginning her freshman year, the first Tuesday in November was supposed to represent the culmination of years of activist efforts spent fighting school closures, spearheading letter campaigns, cold-calling voters to persuade them to allow teens like her to vote and registering classmates to vote.

Instead of heading to the polls, though, she went to dance class to rehearse a routine that would be performed at a climate justice rally. Arista says she would have cast her vote for David Kakishiba, the executive director of a center that provides after school programming for Oakland schools, she said.

"My other peers felt that he actually cared about our input," Arista said. It was apparent, though, that other adults did not.

Other activists, too, were crestfallen by Alameda County's failure to enfranchise them.

"I don't think they made it a priority," said Melisa Rodriguez, a 16-year-old junior and youth activist. "Maybe because it was mainly from students."

But the teens did not have much time to mourn. There was still more work to be done: The students had polled their peers about what they wanted to see in their schools. Using their responses, they put together a policy platform, pressing for things like toilet paper and soap in bathrooms, lessons on how to deal with stress, financial literacy classes and more hands-on learning. Then they made videos advertising their policy platform, and reminding adults to keep them in mind when they cast their ballots.

Exactly four weeks before the election, on a Tuesday in October, Arista spent much of her school day staring at index cards with microscopic texts. She was nervous as she prepared to serve as a moderator for a school board candidate forum she and other students helped organize at Fremont High, hoping to remind the candidates to whom they were responsible.

That night, Arista pressed them for their plans to address school safety and Black student achievement in front of an audience that included dozens of students who showed up despite not being able to cast a ballot.

"It is sad," Arista said before the event, dressed in loose vintage jeans and Air Jordan sneakers. But she said she was buoyed because students would be able to vote in coming elections. "We know it's going to happen at some point."

On Election Day, Rodriguez didn't mope. Instead, she headed to an after-school leadership club where she and her classmates began envisioning what they wanted the Fremont High of the future to look like.

Then, they got to work to make it a reality.

"We're always going to have a voice," Rodriguez said, "whether they like it or not."

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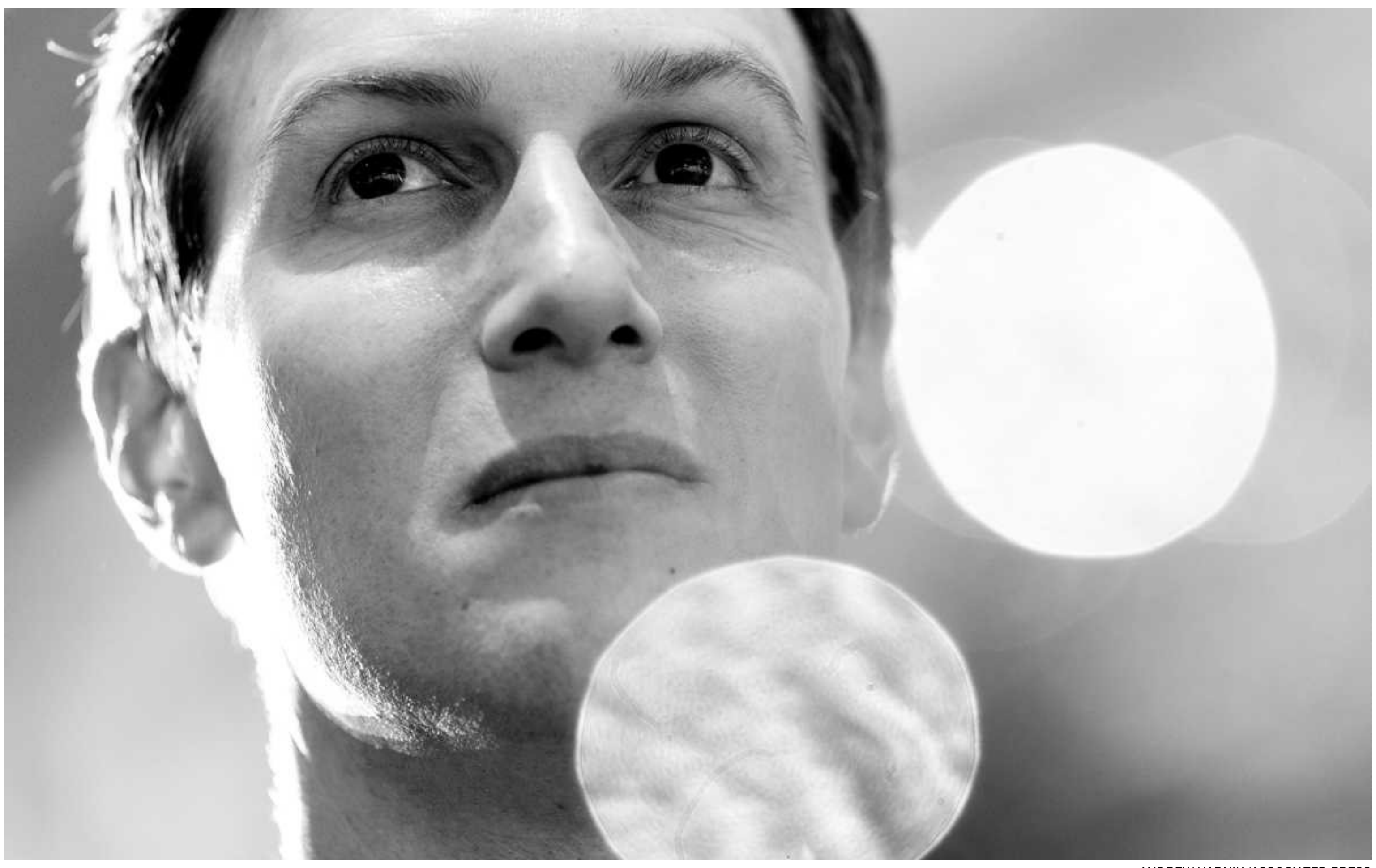
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Democrats ramp up probe of Kushner family's dealings

Panels eye records about diplomatic actions at time of property bailout

BY MICHAEL KRANISH



ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jared Kushner in Palm Beach, Fla., last month as Donald Trump announces another presidential run. Congressional panels are seeking information about whether Kushner's actions on U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf region as a senior White House adviser were influenced.

Democrats on a pair of congressional committees have launched an aggressive new effort to obtain information about whether Jared Kushner's actions on U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf region as a senior White House adviser were influenced by the bailout of a property owned by his family business.

Citing previously undisclosed emails and other documents related to former president Donald Trump's son-in-law, the committees on Monday night sent letters to the State and Defense departments requesting material that they say could shed new light on whether "Kushner's financial conflict of interest may have led him to improperly influence U.S. tax, trade and national security policies for his own financial gain."

The letters, obtained by The Washington Post, focus on efforts by Kushner and his father, Charles Kushner, to bail out a troubled 41-story Fifth Avenue office building in New York City. The Kushner company in 2018 made a deal with a Canadian company, Brookfield Asset Management, which invested $1.2 billion for a 99-year lease. As a result, the Kushner family company avoided defaulting on a loan that was due the following year.

Democrats have long raised questions about the deal because the Qatar Investment Authority, a sovereign wealth fund, had a stake in one of Brookfield's investment arms.

Brookfield said when it was negotiating its deal in 2018 that "no Qatar-linked entity has any involvement in or even knowledge of this potential transaction." But Democrats have continued probing whether any Qatari money went into the project.

Now, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), in their roles as chairs of the Senate Finance Committee and House Oversight Committee, have broadened that inquiry, co-authoring letters to the State and Defense departments. They wrote that they are seeking an array of documents addressing their concerns that Jared Kushner's role in Middle East policy could have played a role in the bailout.

Neither Jared Kushner, who now runs a private-equity company, nor Charles Kushner, who serves as chairman of the Kushner real estate company, responded to requests for comment.

The saga of the Fifth Avenue property has long been one of the darkest chapters in Jared Kushner's career.

After his father went to prison for federal tax evasion and other charges after being convicted in 2005, Kushner — who is married to Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump — remade the family real estate business. He sold many of the company's New Jersey apartments and paid $1.8 billion for the Fifth Avenue property, the most ever paid in the United States for an office building at that time. While Kushner called it a "great acquisition," the purchase came just before the 2007 real estate crash, undercutting the value of the property and putting the family business at risk.

As Kushner recounted in "Breaking History," his recent memoir: "There was no way I was going to let the investment fail. I had very little leverage, so I was willing to talk to anybody." He called it the biggest challenge of his career.

By 2016, Kushner was simultaneously helping to run Donald Trump's presidential campaign and seeking an investor to take over the property. A previously undisclosed email obtained by the committees says that Kushner talked with top Brookfield officials about the Fifth Avenue property on April 15, 2016. The property at the time was known as 666 Fifth Ave. and is now known as 660 Fifth Ave.

Five days later, in an email with the subject line "re 666," Brookfield's then-chairman, Ric Clark, wrote: "Jared — thanks for coming down last Friday. We are excited about your project." Clark ended the email writing, "Congratulations on yesterday's election," apparently a reference to Trump's victory in the New York Republican primary, which helped him secure the nomination. Clark did not respond to a request for comment.

In December 2016, as Kushner worked on Trump's transition team, he met with representatives of a Chinese insurance firm regarding potentially investing in the property, the New York Times reported. Kushner also met with a Russian banker but told Congress that family business was not discussed, although the bank has said they talked about "promising business lines and sectors."

Then, as Kushner began his White House role, he divested himself of his interest in the Fifth Avenue property and cut ties with the family company, where his father worked. At the same time, he retained real estate assets valued between $132 million and $407 million, The Post has reported.

As Kushner worked on Middle East policy, his father in April 2017 held a meeting with Qatar's finance minister at which the Fifth Avenue property was discussed. Charles Kushner later told The Post that even if the Qataris had offered to wire funds on the spot, he would have turned them down to avoid questions about a conflict of interest with his son.

Jared Kushner played a significant role in policy affecting Qatar. He had helped persuade Trump to strengthen ties with Saudi Arabia during a May 2017 visit to the Arab nation. A month later, Saudi Arabia joined several countries in breaking relationships with Qatar and imposing a blockade, accusing Qatar of financing terrorism. Kushner wrote in his memoir that, contrary to accusations by some in the administration, he was not to blame for the Saudi action against Qatar and "tried to convince them to delay the decision." He then tried to work to lift the blockade against Qatar, he wrote.

With questions swirling about whether Kushner used his influence to get investors to bail out the Fifth Avenue building, Charles Kushner in January 2018 gave his first interview about the matter, telling The Post that he had purposefully avoided doing business with sovereign investment funds or similar entities, to avoid a conflict of interest with his son's White House job.

A month after that interview, according to emails obtained by the committees, Charles Kushner talked with Clark, the Brookfield chairman, about investing in the Fifth Avenue property. An associate of Charles Kushner then emailed Clark with a summary of a proposed deal.

Two months later, Qatar's leader visited the White House and Trump officials called for an end to the blockade. In their letter, the committees said the Trump administration's support for the blockade "evaporated shortly after Charles Kushner's discussion with Brookfield," but they did not supply evidence that the two events are linked.

The following month, Brookfield and the Kushner real estate company confirmed that they were negotiating a deal on the Fifth Avenue building. Both parties said that at the time that there was no Qatari involvement in the investment, which was finalized later in 2018. Jared Kushner did not mention Brookfield in his memoir.

In the waning days of the Trump administration, Charles Kushner — who had been convicted of filing false tax returns and other charges — was pardoned by Trump and Jared Kushner traveled to the Persian Gulf region to finalize a deal to end the blockade of Qatar. The day after the Trump administration ended, Kushner created a private equity firm, for which he obtained a $2 billion investment from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. The fund is headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who the CIA has said ordered the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributing columnist.

In recent days, Kushner traveled to Qatar, where he was photographed at the World Cup with some of that nation's leaders.

Democrats, meanwhile, have repeatedly sought information about the Fifth Avenue property bailout from Brookfield and Kushner.

On Dec. 9, 2020, Wyden co-authored a letter to Brookfield saying that despite Brookfield's assurance that no Qatari money was involved in the deal, "it appears that is exactly what happened," and requested documentation from the company about it. Then, on Oct. 13, 2022, Wyden sent another letter to Brookfield, accusing the company of "stonewalling on whether it intentionally misled the public" about the use of Qatar-linked funds to bail out the Kushner family property. Wyden alleged that Brookfield's initial assurance that no Qatar-linked entities were involved "turned out to be false."

Asked about Wyden's allegations by The Post, Brookfield issued a statement that did not directly address the question of Qatar's role: "We have been fully transparent and responded to all requests. As we have said all along, the decision to acquire this building was based purely on its own merits — it was an iconic, underperforming building in a prime location in need of significant redevelopment. The building has now been transformed, and we believe it will exceed our expectations in delivering value for our clients."

The Qatar Investment Authority said via email that it would not comment. Qatari officials have previously said they did not learn about the Brookfield investment in the Kushner property until it was reported in the media. Subsequently, Reuters reported in 2019 that the Qatar Investment Authority would avoid putting its money in investment funds that it does not control.

The committees' letter this week marks the most aggressive request yet for new information. The committees are seeking all relevant correspondence related to the Kushner family company, Brookfield, the Qatari fund, the blockade and other matters.

In addition, the committees said, they are requesting any correspondence that refers to "Kushner seeking to influence, interfere with, or supersede the normal operations and responsibilities" of the State and Defense departments.

Jonathan O'Connell and Alice Crites contributed to this report.

Justices consider 'independent state legislature theory' and election authority

COURT FROM A1

have exclusive authority to structure federal elections, subject only to intervention by Congress. The "independent state legislature theory" holds that the U.S. Constitution gives that power to lawmakers even if it results in extreme partisan voting maps for congressional seats and violates voter protections enshrined in state constitutions.

The case could have a major influence on results in the 2024 election. It has drawn attention in part because of the nation's polarized politics, where former president Donald Trump and his allies still advocate to overturn the 2020 election, and the midterms showed that control of Congress can depend on the drawing of congressional district lines.

The court's three most conservative justices — Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Neil M. Gorsuch — seemed receptive to a reading of the Constitution in line with that of the North Carolina legislators. The court's liberals — Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson — did not.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Brett M. Kavanaugh and Barrett seemed more conflicted, and perhaps looking for ways to ensure that state courts do not take over the supervision of election processes in which legislatures are the primary actors.

All of the justices seemed to agree that was a goal. But drawing a line to decide when a court stops acting as a court and moves into legislative territory could be a difficult task.

Washington lawyer Donald B. Verrilli Jr., a former solicitor general in the Obama administration representing the state's election officials, said the U.S. Supreme Court should second-guess state supreme courts only when a decision marks such a "sharp departure from the state's ordinary modes of constitutional interpretation that it lacks any fair and substantial basis in state law."

Republican leaders in North Carolina want the Supreme Court to restore a redistricting map that was drawn by the GOP-led legislature but rejected as a violation of the state constitution by the state's Supreme Court.

Backers of the independent state legislature theory say the U.S. Constitution's election clause gives state legislatures "the federal function of regulating congressional elections" and that states may "not limit the legislature's discretion." Because there is a similar reference to "legislature" in an accompanying provision of the Constitution regarding presidential elections, the stakes are even higher.

Attorney David H. Thompson, representing North Carolina Republicans, pointed to founding-era history and the text of the Constitution to explain why state courts cannot limit the power of legislators to set federal election rules.

Because the U.S. Constitution specifies that the "legislature" sets federal election regulations, "States lack the authority to restrict the legislatures' substantive discretion when performing this federal function," Thompson said.

But Roberts and Barrett said the court's precedents do not support such an absolutist view.

Roberts noted that the court held decades ago that a governor may veto the legislature's redistricting plan. "The power to veto the actions of the legislature significantly undermines the argument that it can do whatever it wants," Roberts said.

When Thompson said there could be a difference between



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arguments at the Supreme Court centered on a theory advanced by North Carolina Republican lawmakers that state legislatures should have exclusive authority to structure federal elections.

procedural roles for other state actors like governors and judges but not a substantive one, Barrett said it was "notoriously difficult" for courts to draw lines between substance and procedure.

The court's liberals were more focused on the big picture of Thompson's theory.

"It seems very much out of keeping with the way our governmental system works and is meant to work," Kagan said, adding: "This is a proposal that gets rid of the normal checks and balances on the way big governmental decisions are made in this country. . . . And you might think that it gets rid of all those checks and balances at exactly the time when they are needed most."

"There is a check. There is a balance," Thompson said. "We've got the legal check from federal law, and we've got the political check that the founders envisioned of going to Congress."

Opponents, including civil rights organizations, Democratic-led states and former Republican judges and election lawyers, say North Carolina's approach would endanger hundreds of state constitutional provisions and state court decisions. In the past, state courts have played an influential role in the congressional redistricting battles following the 2020 Census. Judges have reined in Republican gerrymanders in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, for instance, and rejected maps drawn by Democratic-led legislatures in New York and Maryland.

Attorney Neal Katyal, representing North Carolina Common Cause and League of Conservation Voters, said the lawmakers' theory is at odds with the historical record. He warned of a "blast radius" if the justices accept the argument that would create chaos for voters with "one set of rules for federal elections and one set of rules for state elections."

The Biden administration opposed the independent state legislature theory. Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar told the justices that "text, long-standing practice, and precedent show that the Elections Clause did not displace" state courts' "ordinary check on state lawmaking." Agreeing with the legislative leaders' theory, she said, would "wreak havoc in the administration of elections across the nation."

In North Carolina, a purple state, analysts said the map created by Republican legislators after the 2020 Census would have given the GOP an edge in 10 of 14 congressional districts. Democratic justices on the elected state Supreme Court said the redistricting maps had a partisan tilt "not explained by the political geography of North Carolina."

Under a new map imposed by the courts just for the 2022 election, the congressional delegation is split seven to seven.

In various decisions leading up to the 2020 elections and since, Alito, Gorsuch and Thomas have said they were skeptical that state courts have the power to overrule the legislature's decisions regarding federal elections.

Alito pressed the lawyer for the challengers about whether a state supreme court composed of elected judges was any less political than having lawmakers draw voting maps.

"There's been a lot of talk about the impact of this decision on democracy," he told Katyal. "Do you think that it furthers democracy to transfer the political controversy about districting from the legislature to elected supreme courts, where the candidates are permitted by state law to campaign on the issue of districting?"

Throughout the argument, several justices returned to the court's handling of the disputed 2000 presidential vote in *Bush v. Gore*. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote in a concurring opinion that the Constitution's grant of power to legislatures to oversee elections limited the power of state judges to intervene, while recognizing a role for the courts.

Kavanaugh noted in an exchange with Thompson that Rehnquist "seemed to acknowledge that state courts would have a role interpreting state law and that federal court review of that should be, in his words, deferential and simply should be a check to make sure that state court had not significantly departed from state law."

"Your position seems to go further than that," Kavanaugh said.

Some justices, including Roberts, questioned whether there might be a problem with state supreme courts reversing the decisions of legislatures based on vague constitutional provisions. North Carolina's court, for instance, threw out the legislature's plan for violating a guarantee to "free elections."

"When the state supreme court was freed of standards and rules, it was no longer acting as the judiciary," Thompson said.

But Sotomayor pointed out that's what courts do in interpreting a constitution.

"I take your answer to mean that there are no judicially enforceable standards to interpret the freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and equal protection clauses of the [U.S.] Constitution because they, on their face, would appear to be as unmanageable," she said.

Verrilli reminded the justices that the state's Republican leaders were not challenging the state Supreme Court's reading of the law, only its authority, which included because of state law the imposition of a new map.

If a court finds a constitutional problem, there must be a remedy, Verrilli said. "You have to have a map to have an election."

The case is *Moore v. Harper*.

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KUWAIT: Oil and More

Kuwaiti entrepreneurs lead the country into the next decade

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Kuwait's economy has leapt beyond that of its neighbors, with the World Bank forecasting the nation's gross domestic product to be the fastest growing in the GCC in 2022. Although the grounds are set for a massive industrial transformation, the country's oil and gas sector remains its key economic pillar, taking up 95 percent of its exports and 90 percent of government revenue. The government's ambitious Vision 2035 initiative has set diversification of the nation's industries as its key focus, with large opportunities opening up in the country's financial services, construction and information and communications technology sectors.

The government's ambitious Vision 2035 initiative has set diversification of the nation's industries as its key focus



Additionally, the country is embracing the green era, including its largest industry. "In the oil sector here in Kuwait we are leaders in sustainability," said Waleed Al-Bader, former CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company.

The national oil company recently launched its $16-billion Clean Fuels Project that significantly cut carbon emissions from its operations.

The government also launched a $200-million fund in 2019 to advance research and private sector participation in technology. The nation is putting more focus on its private sector – particularly its small and medium-sized enterprises – to add value and innovate the market, with the government relaxing policies for new enterprises. Foreign investors are now swinging their heads to participate in the newly opened and modern economy.

Financial Services

With a quick return to earnings, the sector is actively looking towards Kuwait's future by homing in on its new fintech capabilities and supporting a rise in entrepreneurship within the financial services community

Central to Kuwait's economic transformation is its robust financial services sector, which houses 11 local banks and more than 100 financial services companies.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait is leading the country's charge in modernizing its banking operations. "We need to be aware of the new challenges and opportunities for growth ahead," said George Richani, Group CEO of the bank. "I believe what made us successful in the past is not necessarily the same recipe for the future." The institution is relying on artificial intelligence, advanced analytics and cutting-edge cybersecurity measures to strengthen Kuwait's financial services offerings. Other institutions are following suit.



"We need to be aware of the new challenges and opportunities for growth ahead."

George Richani
Group CEO of ABK

Innovation in the segment is being led by the Central Bank of Kuwait, which launched a regulatory sandbox in November 2018 that allows for testing of new banking technologies outside the financial system to support and develop small and medium-sized enterprises in the fintech sector.

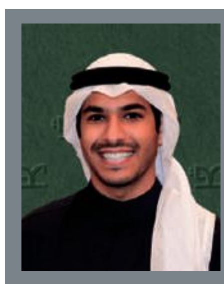
Subsequently, the government launched a $200-million fund to advance research and private sector participation in technology in January 2019 with a large part of it bound for advancements in the financial service sector.

The presence of successful Kuwaiti fintech companies such as secure payment brands Tap Payments and My Fatoorah are showing a huge appetite in Kuwait for digital products and payment systems. As quarterly profits rise sharply – reaching $1.7 billion in the second quarter of 2022 – the country's banks are hastening to compete with regional powerhouses for financial technologies, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain.

Young Entrepreneurs

A shining new generation of business leaders is leading the country's transformation

Kuwait is seeing unprecedented focus put on its entrepreneurial market, with a fresh round of private business owners ushering a new era of innovation. Under the Vision 2035 initiative, the government has liberalized funding and relaxed policies related to new businesses with positive results. In 2020, Kuwait ranked fourth in the Middle East and North Africa region in funding for start-ups following the UAE, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



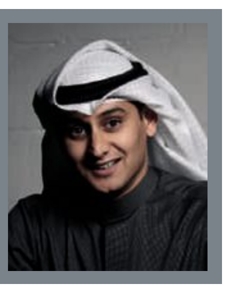
"The private sector is extremely ready and just needs opportunities."

Abdulaziz AlAbdulrazzaq
CEO of AAG

Positive market conditions have allowed young entrepreneurs to do more than grow companies but change the fabric of Kuwaiti culture. Entrepreneurial frontrunner Aziz Alabdulrazzaq, CEO of Alabdulrazzaq Group, is moving his fourth-generation family company towards transforming Kuwait's services sector with the new Alfred concept café in Kuwait City.

"Kuwait is a great place to start any ventures and spread to the region."

Ahmed AlHuzami
CEO of AlCantara Holding



"The private sector is extremely ready and just needs opportunities," said Alabdulrazzaq.

Another frontrunner, Ahmed AlHuzami, CEO of AlCantara Holdings, is igniting active recreation in the country through its sports management and consultancy Suffix that has organized exponentially larger events. "We strive for unique experiences even if they are costly because we know we are changing a culture," he said.

These role models are showing what is possible in the market and empowering a new generation of young leaders.

Local leader sees strength in diversity

Al Abdulrazzaq Group

Abdulaziz AlAbdulrazzaq, CEO of AlAbdulrazzaq Group, has been instrumental in modernizing the family-run multinational company through diversifying the company's focus markets and looking beyond Kuwait to global opportunities.

Locally, the company is stirring the pot with its new landmark Alfred coffee in Kuwait City, with expected expansion of the community-enforcing franchise into the region. Following the Kuwaiti government's Vision 2035 initiative, the company plans to create different opportunities for local workers and boost unvisited areas of the economy. AlAbdulrazzaq highlights the importance of adapting private entities to explore different niches to absorb shocks in the market and how family-run values create a robust and dedicated community of workers.

Entrepreneurs lead through ingenuity and strategy

AlCantara Holding

CEO Ahmed AlHuzami of Alcantara Holdings has played the long game and come out on top, with the holding company climbing the ranks to become not only Kuwait's most successful sports-related entity but also a beacon for fashion and instrument of social change. The company has held its focus on the country's fitness segment since it was formed in 2007, a gap long neglected by both private and public sectors. Now, the company promotes some of the nation's most-attended sporting events and healthier lifestyles while its fashion and design entities set the bar for the country's refined tastes. By holding on to a dream, the business leader has shown that changing the paradigm of business is indeed possible.

Unlocking growth through new business frontiers

AlThekair Trading & Contracting Company



Since1984, AlThekair Trading & Contracting Company has pioneered a journey of acquisitions in Kuwait. By using an analytical approach to the market, Chairman Hamad AlThekair steered the group into a diverse portfolio of services—from ICT to finance, automotive, and real estate.

In 2004, the group entered the automotive sector by acquiring the Kia Motors car dealership in Iraq. It became a significant player in the financial sector with the addition of leading investment company Al Madar in 2017, and asset-management firm Kuwait & Middle East Financial Investment Company in 2019, and their subsequent turnaround into profitability.

Selling its e-Portal Holding in 2022 to accelerate expansion, the group took on the real-estate development sector in Kuwait through a new project designed by US architecture firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, responsible for the world's tallest building.

"Kuwaiti businesspeople are resourceful, determined to succeed and open to new frontiers," AlThekair said. "They are risk-takers, managing to transform underperforming companies into bigger and more profitable ones, whether in Kuwait or cross-border."



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Court wranglings over classified items continue

TRUMP FROM A1

judge, but people familiar with the matter say the Justice Department has raised concerns about what prosecutors view as a long-standing failure to fully comply with the May subpoena by Trump's team.

Emails released by the General Services Administration, which assists former presidents during their transition to private life, show that the government agency helped rent the storage unit at a private facility in West Palm Beach on July 21, 2021. The unit was needed to store items that had been held at an office in Northern Virginia used by Trump staffers in the months just after he left office.

The emails show that the GSA and Trump staffers worked together to arrange to ship several pallets of boxes and other items weighing more than 3,000 pounds from Northern Virginia to the Florida storage unit in September 2021.

A person familiar with the matter said the storage unit had a mix of boxes, gifts, suits and clothes, among other things. "It was suits and swords and wrestling belts and all sorts of things," this person said. "To my knowledge, he has never even been to that storage unit. I don't think anyone in Trump World could tell you what's in that storage unit."

There was no cataloguing of what was put in the storage unit, Trump advisers said — just as there was no cataloguing of what classified documents were taken to a room underneath Mar-a-Lago.

The Washington Post could not immediately determine specifically what was in the items marked classified. A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment. The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The ultimate significance of the classified material in the storage unit is not immediately clear, but its presence there indicates Mar-a-Lago was not the only place where Trump kept classified material. It also provides further evidence that Trump and his team did not fully comply with a May grand jury subpoena that sought all documents marked classified still in possession of the post-presidential office.

In addition to the storage unit, the team hired an outside company to carry out the search of Trump's golf club in Bedminster, N.J., and, more recently, Trump Tower in New York, according to people familiar with the matter. The outside team also searched at least one other property.

The team offered the FBI the opportunity to observe the search but the offer was declined, the people said. It would be unusual for federal agents to monitor a search of someone's property conducted by anyone other than another law enforcement agency.

Trump's lawyers have told the Justice Department that the outside team did not turn up any new classified information during their search of Bedminster and Trump Tower, according to people familiar with the process, and have said they utilized a firm that had expertise in searching for documents.

"President Trump and his counsel continue to be cooperative and transparent," Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said, accusing the Justice Department of committing an "unprecedented" and "unwarranted attack" against Trump and his family.

Chief U.S. District Judge Beryl A. Howell told Trump's legal team to continue to search for documents after the Justice Department expressed concerns that the team had not fully complied with a subpoena earlier this year. Howell, according to people familiar with the matter, did not give specific orders on how a search should be done.

Howell's instructions followed a breakdown in the government's trust in Trump's attorneys that led prosecutors in August to seek a court-authorized FBI search of Mar-a-Lago. Since that time, prosecutors have continued to question whether Trump has returned all materials with classification markings, although what steps the government might take to retrieve such materials or procedures it might require Trump's advisers and lawyers to implement remain unclear.



LEONARDO MUÑOZ/VIEWPRESS/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES

Trump Tower in Manhattan is one of the properties an outside team hired by Donald Trump searched for classified material in recent weeks after Trump's legal team was pressed by a federal judge to attest that it had fully complied with a May grand jury subpoena.

Trump's team has sought to avert another federal high-profile search of his properties, the people familiar with the matter said.

According to the people, at least one of Trump's lawyers has previously advocated for a less combative approach toward the Justice Department investigation of Trump and his advisers for three potential crimes: mishandling of national security secrets, obstruction and destruction of government records.

That attorney, former Florida solicitor general Christopher Kise, had proposed such a search months earlier. Many of the other lawyers on Trump's team have rebuffed Kise's advice, and he has taken a reduced role in the classified documents case while taking a larger role in the New York investigations into the former president, the people said.

Jay Bratt, the chief of the counterintelligence and export control section at the Justice Department, communicated to Trump's lawyers after the FBI search that the department was concerned Trump still may not have returned all the classified documents in his possession. The Post has previously reported that officials at the National Archives also believe that there may still be more records missing. Previous attempts by Trump's attorneys to identify and return documents proved unsatisfactory to investigators.

At times in the past, Trump has misled his own lawyers as to what was in the boxes that were taken from Mar-a-Lago, The Post has reported.

For example, he told some on his team that he possessed only newspaper clippings and personal items in 2021. One of his former lawyers, Alex Cannon, declined Trump's entreaty to tell the National Archives he had returned all items, because Cannon was not sure whether it was true, and his team in February did not release a statement dictated by Trump that claimed he had returned all materials, The Post has reported.

Trump lawyers Christina Bobb and Evan Corcoran met with investigators in June, handing over a taped-up folder of 38 documents collected from the former president's residence in response to a May subpoena, according to court documents and people familiar with the matter. Prosecutors called the response "incomplete" in court documents and said that they collected evidence of "obstructive conduct" regarding the failure to fully comply with the subpoena.

Bobb signed a certification swearing that she had been told that "a diligent search" was conducted of boxes of records shipped from the White House to Florida when Trump left office and that the file handed over to investigators contained "all documents that are responsive to the subpoena." Corcoran told the visiting investigators he had been advised that all available boxes placed in a storage room — and nowhere else — had been searched in response to the subpoena, The Post reported.

Soon after, investigators obtained video surveillance of the club and conducted more interviews with Trump staffers, leading them to seek a search warrant from a judge on the basis of new evidence that sensitive material still remained at Mar-a-Lago, The Post has reported. When agents executed the search warrant in August, they found additional documents with classified markings in the storage room and in Trump's office, along with thousands of other government papers and items, according to court records.

Perry Stein contributed to this report.

Trump told crowd to 'fight like hell' before Capitol riot. Can he be sued?

Judges explore line between incitement and protected speech

BY RACHEL WEINER

A federal appeals court on Wednesday debated whether Donald Trump can be forced to pay damages for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot to lawmakers and police officers injured by the mob.

While they struggled with the line between protected speech-making and actionable incitement, all three judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals indicated that a line exists and the former president may have crossed it.

One judge, a Trump appointee who served in his administration, said Trump potentially instigated violence when he told his supporters the election was stolen and urged them to march on the Capitol and "fight like hell."

The "arguable incitement," Judge Gregory G. Katsas said, "makes this a hard case."

Two Capitol Police officers and 11 House Democrats are suing Trump under a statute intended to combat Ku Klux Klan violence after the Civil War. The 150-year-old law bars the use of force, threats or intimidation to prevent government officials from carrying out their duties, and allows anyone injured by such actions to collect damages.

The plaintiffs say Trump, along with members of the far-right Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, conspired to prevent lawmakers from certifying the 2020 election results, causing "psychological and, in some cases, physical injuries."

Katsas rejected an argument from Trump's attorneys that allowing this lawsuit would leave future presidents afraid to speak about important issues for fear of being sued.

"How many cases will there be with a colorable claim of incitement against the president?" the judge asked. "It seems like that is not going to hamstring the president in his day-to-day job."

But Katsas and other judges also expressed concern about the lack of a clear line between expressing disagreement with another branch of government and interfering in its work.

"One of the areas I'm concerned about is we have a history in this country of protest where they may start out as peaceful protests, but they turn violent, either because of opposing points of view or police actions," said Judge Judith W. Rogers, a nominee of President Bill Clinton.

Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan, an Obama appointee, said Trump could not be held liable because violence occurred — "it has to turn on what the president in fact said or did." But he also noted that the allegations "go beyond the Jan. 6 speech," to include Trump's calls to state election officials, his tweets, and his role in setting up the rally.

Katsas said that Trump's speech alone is "ambiguous," but "if you minimize the words on the page and maximize the context," Trump's conduct "looks maybe dangerous."

Jesse Binnall, an attorney for Trump, said all of the former president's actions were part of his use of the "bully pulpit" to address issues of "public concern ... a critical function of the presidency."

Even if the context was purely political, Binnall said, "You cannot separate the governance from reelection. If the president wants reelection, it's so he can continue to govern."

Attorney Joseph M. Sellers, representing the lawmakers and officers, said Trump was not entitled to the protections of a system he tried to upend.

"It's inconceivable that the president can avail himself of immunity that derives from the same separation of powers that his conduct thwarted," Sellers said. "You can't have it both ways."

While the president was "very artful" in not explicitly calling for violence, Sellers said, "he created a powder keg ... and then he ignited it."

Alan Rozenshtein, a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, said Katsas, "who is quite conservative, was pretty explicit" in rejecting Trump's argument of absolute immunity for presidential speech on any public issue. He predicted the panel would "deny immunity on this pretty narrow but ultimately pretty crazy fact pattern."

U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta in February found that Trump's statements on and before Jan. 6 could be interpreted as "an implicit call for imminent violence or lawlessness," making him potentially part of a conspiracy to disrupt the vote count.

"He knew the respective roles of the conspirators: his was to encourage the use of force, intimidation, or threats to thwart the Certification from proceeding, and organized groups such as the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers would carry out the required acts," the judge wrote. "The President thus plausibly would have known that a call for violence would be carried out by militia groups and other supporters."

Attorneys for Trump appealed, arguing that even in "difficult" cases there is "ironclad presidential immunity as it relates to speechmaking," and therefore "no further inquiry into President Trump's motives is permitted."

A separate D.C. court is considering whether Trump was acting as president when he denied raping a woman in a department store dressing room, which would protect him from a defamation suit brought by his alleged victim.

A bipartisan group of former White House and Justice Department officials asked the court to rule against Trump, writing that this is a "rare but clear circumstance in which a President broke the law while acting well beyond any official capacity." Forty former diplomats and foreign policy officials likewise told the court that Trump "demonstrably undermined the United States' commitment to democracy at home and abroad."

Mehta recently presided over an eight-week trial where Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes and a deputy were found guilty of engaging in a seditious conspiracy to use force to keep President Biden from taking office. Three other Oath Keepers were found guilty of blocking lawmakers from certifying the election result. A second Oath Keepers trial started with jury selection this week; the longtime leader of the Proud Boys and other group leaders go to trial on similar charges in coming weeks.

Trump's actions on and around Jan. 6 are also under investigation by the Justice Department; special counsel Jack Smith this week subpoenaed officials in Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin for communications with Trump.

Katsas raised the prospect of criminal charges in court Wednesday, asking Trump's attorneys whether immunity would apply.

"The attractiveness of absolute immunity in the civil context might depend on the number of other remedies available," Katsas said. "Is criminal a possibility?"

Binnall declined to speculate on that issue.

DeSantis to huddle with donors after thumping reelection victory in Florida

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

Ron DeSantis, the Republican governor of Florida whose resounding reelection victory last month established him as a possible contender for his party's 2024 presidential nomination, is huddling with some of his top donors this month as he charts his plans for the future.

Invitations went out this week for an "intimate dinner" on Sunday in Miami with DeSantis and his wife, said two people familiar with the details who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview a private event. The invitations were addressed to the governor's "strongest supporters." One person said additional gatherings may take place in other parts of the state.

A DeSantis campaign spokeswoman declined to comment.

The dinner — the governor's first known gathering with donors since last month's midterms — isn't explicitly about the 2024 race, knowledgeable people said. Rather, the invitation describes it as a chance to toast the victory notched by DeSantis — in which he achieved the largest margin by a Florida Republican gubernatorial candidate in modern history — and discuss the road ahead.

DeSantis, in his victory speech last month, strongly signaled that road would take him to the national stage, offering Florida as an example for the rest of the country.

"The survival of the American experiment requires a revival of true American principles," he said. "Florida has proved that it can be done. We offer a ray of hope that better days still lie ahead."

The Florida governor has more than $70 million held in reserve from his reelection campaign that he may seek to use in service of a presidential bid. He established himself as his party's most dominant fundraiser this cycle, bringing in more than $200 million between a campaign committee and an aligned PAC. The PAC was able to accept unlimited individual and corporate contributions.

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Some of DeSantis's top donors included Robert Bigelow, the owner of Budget Suites of America who gave $10 million, and Ken Griffin, the founder and chief executive of the hedge fund Citadel who gave $5 million.

DeSantis's donor gathering comes as he seeks to sidestep a feud with former president Donald Trump, who announced his 2024 campaign last month and unleashed a volley of attacks on the popular Florida governor, whom he endorsed in 2018, elevating him in a tight primary contest. He labeled DeSantis "Governor Ron DeSanctimonious" and, after his reelection last month, derided him as an "average Republican governor."

DeSantis, asked about the comments after the election, said he would "just tell people to check out the scoreboard last Tuesday night."

"One of the things that I've learned in this job, when you're leading, when you are getting things done, yeah, you take incoming fire," he said. "That's just the nature of it."

People who have spoken to DeSantis about the 2024 contest say he has not made up his mind about a possible campaign. One ally predicted that any announcement would come after Florida's legislative session ends in May.

Other potential 2024 GOP entrants have also been courting donors as they prepare to mount potential challenges to Trump.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) held a "Red Vest Retreat" earlier this year that people involved described to The Washington Post as an opportunity to sound out his presidential prospects.

Former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley has indicated she'll decide about a campaign over the holidays. She appeared last month at a Republican Jewish Coalition conference in Las Vegas alongside former vice president Mike Pence, former secretary of state Mike Pompeo and other potential rivals in an unofficial primary kickoff. DeSantis spoke last at the cattle call and received a rock star's reception.

Isaac Arnsdorf and Hannah Knowles contributed to this report.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Senate Democrats rest a bit easier with a bigger cushion

They're celebrating nominee confirmations, new subpoena power

BY LIZ GOODWIN

Fresh off Sen. Raphael G. Warnock's victory in Georgia, Senate Democrats celebrated the end of a long and complicated period of 50-50 power sharing with Republicans, touting their newfound power to more speedily confirm President Biden's nominees and the ability to conduct more robust oversight on corporate America with new subpoena power.

"After one year, 10 months and 17 days of the longest 50-50 Senate in history — 51!" Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said Wednesday at a victory-lap news conference. "A slim majority! That is great and we are so happy about it."

The expanded majority comes just as the House is poised to flip to Republican control and readies itself to block Democratic measures the Senate manages to send its way.

Nonetheless, the Senate majority leader said the extra senator means "we can breathe a sigh of relief" and joked that Vice President Harris would no longer need to spend so much time shuttling back and forth between the White House and the Capitol to serve as a tiebreaking vote.

In the 50-50 Senate, Democrats and Republicans were split evenly on committees, meaning Republicans could band together and force a full Senate floor vote to clear nominees or legislation they opposed from a committee. Now, Democrats will take the majority on committees, meaning precious floor time that was once eaten up on those discharge votes will now be freed up to conduct other Senate business.

"It makes all the difference in the world," said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), the chair of the Judiciary Committee.

"Right now in 50-50 ... it's a very slow process," added Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. "You can't move folks through as quickly as we should. It's really critical that we fill key positions."

The Senate has had to vote to discharge nominations 24 times this Congress, with 22 waiting in the wings, according to Schumer's office.



SARAH SILBIGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D-Ga.) pose for a photo Wednesday on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Warnock's win on Tuesday handed Senate Democrats a 51-vote majority. This will allow them to take the majority on committees and also dilutes the power of moderate Democratic senators.

Having the majority in committees also comes with subpoena power, which opens up the possibility that Senate Democrats could seek to counterbalance the aggressive oversight investigations Republicans plan to launch next month in the House when they take power there.

Schumer declined to specify what oversight targets Senate Democrats would pursue, but he suggested "corporate corruption and inequities and other problems throughout the country" would be among them.

The extra seat also gives Democrats some wiggle room should a member fall ill or be unable to attend in person ahead of a crucial vote, a distinct possibility given the advanced age of many in the chamber.

"It's a game changer," Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) said of the 51st vote.

But perhaps most interesting to the power dynamics of the Senate is the way in which an expanded majority dilutes the power of moderate Democratic senators, including Joe Manchin III (W.Va.), to object to legislation that Democrats are able to pass with just 50 votes. The moderate was sometimes dubbed "President Manchin" given how much sway he had over legislation Biden and Schumer wanted to pass through the budget reconciliation process, where his vote was necessary to clear the 50-vote hurdle. (Most legislation must pass with 60 votes, to avoid a filibuster.)

With the House, however, flipping to GOP control in January, it will be far less likely that any party-line legislation would make it to Biden's desk anyway. Many House Republicans ran on a platform of blocking Biden's agenda and cutting back the federal government's spending.

Republicans downplayed the significance of the Democrats' newly padded majority, pointing out that the House will serve as a check on liberal legislation originating from the Senate next year.

"It just means it's a little easier for Democrats to confirm their nominees," said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.). "Beyond that it doesn't mean much. You still gotta get 60 votes to move legislation, and as long as the filibuster is intact, the Democrats won't be able to pass any reconciliation bills because of the House. So I think we're pretty much where we were before."

Schumer has declined to lay out a Democratic agenda for next year, but he has urged Republicans to cross the aisle and work with him and his party.

On the campaign trail, Warnock at times hyped up how having a 51st Democratic seat in the Senate would open more possibilities for what the party can get done in Washington.

"There comes a moment when the difference might be one vote. Fifty-one is better than 50 when it comes to voting rights. When it comes to preserving a woman's right to choose, 51 is better than 50," Warnock said to a cheering crowd at a recent rally in Conyers, Ga.

Warnock has often expressed frustration that Democrats were unable to pass voting rights legislation.

At the rally, he explained that having 51 Democrats could have made a difference in those debates, as Democrats ultimately got on board with a voting rights bill but did not all agree to suspend the filibuster rule that requires 60 votes to pass most legislation.

Sabrina Rodriguez and Leigh Ann Caldwell contributed to this report.

Republicans restrategize after Walker's loss in Ga.

GEORGIA FROM A1

party's ability to appeal beyond its base. But the hand-wringing repeatedly came back to their candidate, one of many inexperienced and polarizing nominees who lost battleground races this year.

Brian Robinson, a GOP operative in Georgia, said that despite all the hurdles, Walker "almost pulled this off," noting that he still captured more than 48 percent of the vote. But to earn those extra few percentage points to win in Georgia, Republicans need candidates who can persuade whom he called "comparison shoppers," not "tribal voters." Other Republicans who won across the state on Nov. 8 ran as "steadyhanded, levelheaded, competent, no-fireworks leaders," he said.

Walker's campaign staff grew gloomy in the final stretch, according to a staffer who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share private conversations. The candidate's five-day absence from the trail around Thanksgiving — for personal events and rest, the person said — didn't help.

"It felt like we had, you know, we had no air in our tires anymore after that," the staffer said. "Morale was rock bottom."

Walker's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

"We put out one heck of a fight," Walker said in his concession speech Tuesday night. He came in 2.8 percentage points behind Warnock, struggling in urban areas and suburbs and performing worse than he did in November, when neither candidate got the 50 percent required to avert a runoff.

Walker was the only statewide Republican candidate who lost this year in Georgia. The GOP had hoped that Democrats' success in the Peach State in 2020 marked a bad year rather than a new norm — and many operatives of both parties still call Georgia a red-leaning state.

The GOP did not immediately unify behind Walker, even after he easily won the nomination. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) campaigned apart from him for most of the general election cycle, and some Republicans were openly critical of Walker's qualifications and doubted his electability.

Walker's campaign openly criticized some Republican fundraising appeals for the candidate that routed most of the money to other Republicans. Meanwhile, allies of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and National Republican Senatorial Committee Chair Rick Scott (R-Fla.), who unsuccessfully challenged McConnell last month to lead the GOP caucus, sparred publicly during the runoff, highlighting the tensions between party factions.

The McConnell-aligned Senate Leadership Fund — the GOP's biggest spender in the midterms — and its affiliated groups invested $18 million during the runoff, on top of the $39 million the SLF spent leading up to the Nov. 8 election, according to the organization. But outside spending was not enough for Walker to catch up to Warnock, who broke fundraising records this cycle. Democrats widened their spending advantage during the runoff, shelling out twice as much as Republicans on ads alone.

SLF President Steven Law "was dealt a bad hand with Trump, a weak NRSC and a lack of enthusiasm for subpar candidates," said GOP strategist Scott Reed. A spokesman for the SLF declined to comment, while a spokesman for the NRSC did not respond to an inquiry Wednesday. The NRSC spent more than half a million dollars in the runoff, according to AdImpact, and has defended its overall midterm strategy.

"While Herschel came up short last night, I know he will continue to be a leader in our party for years to come," Scott, who campaigned with the candidate during the general election and the runoff, said in a statement Wednesday.



AUDRA MELTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Supporters watch as vote returns come in during a midterm runoff election night watch party for GOP Senate nominee Herschel Walker at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

Walker's campaign was dogged by repeated accusations of past misconduct: Former partners of Walker's accused him of domestic violence and said that he was a largely absent father and that he paid for their abortions despite embracing strict bans on the procedure as a candidate. Walker denied many of the claims while saying he did not remember certain incidents.

Democrats also worked to highlight Walker's gaffes on the trail. The Warnock campaign has been credited with building a coalition that encouraged the Democrats' liberal base, but also appealed to moderates and independents.

Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R-Pa.) — whose retirement this year opened up a seat in a key battleground that Democrats flipped — argued that the problem is not the Republican brand, but Trump's. In an interview, he echoed other Republicans who noted that candidates closely aligned with Trump underperformed in the midterms while "more conventional Republicans" — including those who clashed with Trump — did well.

"We had a flawed candidate — that's to put it mildly — and [that's] completely the creation of Donald Trump. And we see how that ended," Toomey said.

In an interview Wednesday, the Walker staffer said Trump's decision to announce a third White House bid during the runoff period — against many Republicans' urgings — complicated the campaign's final stretch and took some of the focus away from Georgia.

"The need to answer for everything that Trump did or said was frustrating," the staffer said, pointing to Trump's widely condemned dinner with the rapper Ye and white supremacist Nick Fuentes, who have both made blatantly antisemitic comments. Walker's campaign did not comment on a show of support from Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, earlier in the fall. Trump's and Walker's team's ultimately settled on a tele-rally ahead of the runoff, which Walker did not advertise on his social media.

The Walker staffer also lamented what they called a constant battle for Walker's ear between experienced campaign operatives and those close to Walker who had no political experience.

GOP donors have expressed dismay at the midterms' results and called for a shift in strategy. Some frustrated donors are talking about setting up their own super PACs, according to a person familiar with their thinking who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.

Even before Walker's loss, some Republicans were lamenting that the party had developed an early-voting problem — with many GOP voters holding on to their ballots until the last day, when weather and other unforeseen factors could affect turnout, while Democrats went all-out to get ballots in early.

Seth Weathers, a Georgia state director for Trump's 2016 campaign — who was openly critical of Walker — argued that Republicans have lots of work ahead to match Democrats' formidable on-the-ground turnout infrastructure.

Adding to that challenge, Republicans said, are the extra resources required to mobilize voters in the rural areas that came out for Walker. "The Warnock campaign can just focus on metro Atlanta just about and get it done," lamented Fulton County Republican Party Chairman Trey Kelly. "Our people have to go around the whole state to get people out."

The Republican National Committee said it had 400 staffers and more than 85,000 volunteers on the ground in Georgia working on turnout; the SLF also invested about $2 million to repurpose Kemp's get-out-the-vote operation.

Some of Trump's most ardent supporters dismissed accusations that Trump was responsible for Republican losses. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) responded to a tweet by former national security adviser John Bolton calling Trump "a huge liability and the Democrat's best asset."

"This has to be the dumbest assessment of our Senate loss, His campaign told Trump to stay out, so don't blame Trump. Blame the one who was hand holding him all over the state, among many other reasons," Greene said. It's unclear whether she was referring to one person or the GOP establishment.

Others in the GOP suggested Georgia would accelerate the party's shift away from the former president. Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger (R) won reelection this fall after easily defeating Trump-backed challengers in the primary. Republicans pointed to Kemp in particular, who defeated Democrat Stacey Abrams by more than 7 percentage points, as evidence that voters outside their base are still receptive to Republican policies and messaging but have soured on Trump as the standard-bearer.

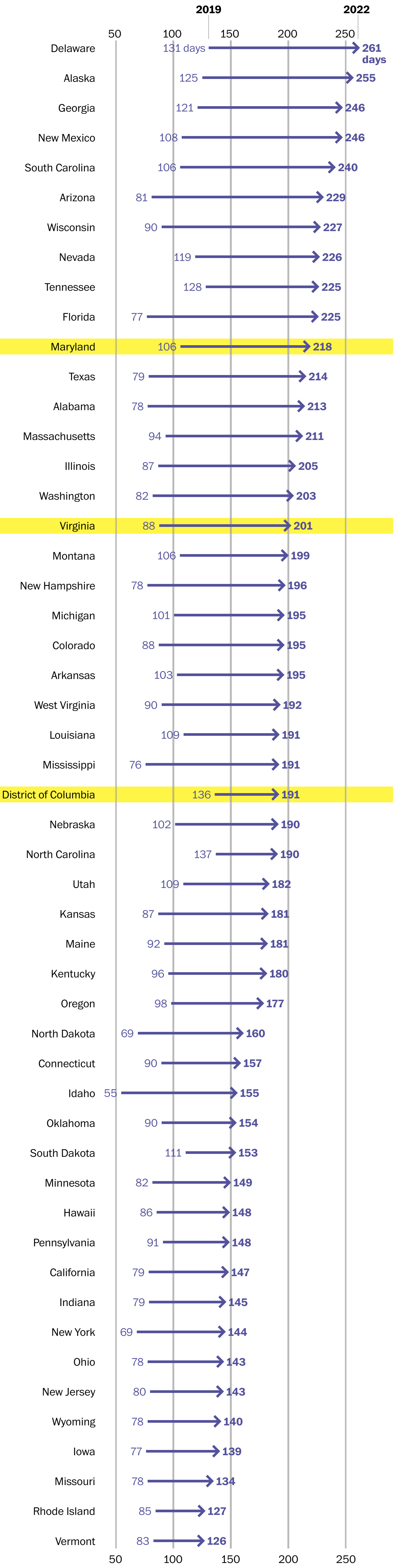
Scott Jennings, a longtime Republican operative associated with McConnell, summed it up in a tweet Wednesday morning: "Georgia may be remembered as the state that broke Trump once and for all."

Liz Goodwin contributed to this report.

More than a million await rulings as pending disability claims reach records

Every state saw processing times for initial disability claims increase since fiscal 2019

Average processing times for disability cases from fiscal 2019 to fiscal 2022.



Source: Social Security Administration NICK MOURTOUPALAS/THE WASHINGTON POST



JESSICA TEZAK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sandra-Kay Pearson heats her husband's only meal of the day at a Kroger grocery store in Knoxville, Tenn., last month.

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM **A1**

"I wanted to help people," recalled Shayla Williams, who worked in the office for two years until she quit in February. "But I was miserable. I'm getting paid $17.50 an hour to play doctor all day. It was not worth it."

The avalanche of new cases was one more reminder that the forgotten bureaucracy in the Texas state government off Interstate 35 had broken down, a failure that has left thousands of poor, disabled and increasingly desperate people without the benefits they need to survive, according to advocates and claimants.

The same system has collapsed in many of the other state offices where Social Security has outsourced reviews of disability claims — a decentralized, convoluted structure Congress created nearly seven decades ago to let low-paid state employees rule on who should get federal benefits.

Now more than a million Americans wait in limbo just to hear whether they will get assistance — the first step in a system of drawn-out judgments and appeals that can ultimately take years before a resolution. The record number of claims awaiting an initial ruling jumped almost 60 percent from before the pandemic. Those denied but under second review rose by 75 percent, Social Security data shows.

The data obtained by The Washington Post paints a grim picture of the holdups claimants are confronting across the country. In Texas, it took 214 days on average in fiscal 2022 to process an initial application. Wisconsin took 227 days, up from 90 days in fiscal 2019. Florida's average time has almost tripled to 225 days. Georgia is taking 246 days. And Delaware now holds the record for the longest wait: 261 days. The pileup of cases has driven a normally three-month wait for an initial review to at least seven, the data shows. But in states struggling most to catch up, it's taking well over a year.

As they wait, some Americans already living at their limits have found themselves with fewer resources, worsening medical conditions and no access to the health insurance that comes with disability benefits. Sandra-Kay Pearson, a 59-year-old former phlebotomist in Greenville, S.C., and her disabled husband are living out of their Nissan Rogue as they await a second ruling on her request for benefits, filed 15 months ago. They sleep in the vehicle after shuttling between parking lots in Greenville and Knoxville, Tenn., where he is receiving treatment for a heart condition.

"If they're going to reject me, go on and reject me, so I can get before a judge," Pearson said. Like 2 in 3 claimants, she was denied on the first try. If she loses again, she says she'll file for a hearing before the administrative law judges who hear most final appeals.

The state offices lost ground even as the number of poor disabled and elderly people asking for government help plunged during the pandemic — the result, experts say, of the protracted closures of local Social Security field offices this population relies on.

Behind the delays lie years of financial neglect and mismanagement in a system whose flaws were only amplified by the public health crisis, according to 33 examiners and state directors, former Social Security officials, claimants, disability attorneys and advocates for the disabled in 10 states who spoke for this story. Perennial hiring and pay struggles, staff shortages, obsolete technology, and fault lines between the states and federal officials have all contributed to the crisis.

"The states have always struggled," said Brian Nickles, who retired a year ago as director of the Oklahoma office of Disability Determination Services. "They're Social Security's bastard stepchild. The pandemic just exposed the problems."

Social Security officials said they are working to break the logjam by collaborating with states to approve money for vacant jobs; improving hiring strategies, retention and training; and paying overtime. The agency also is sending reinforcements to struggling states to help process claims.

Acting Social Security commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi declined to be interviewed for this story. In a statement, she said: "We are analyzing factors that are contributing to the backlog. It is a combination of complex issues." She cited challenges to hiring in the tight labor market, "historically high attrition" in the state offices, increasing medical evidence that must be reviewed, and shortages of physicians to conduct outside medical exams and review cases.

Kijakazi said she is counting on Congress to pass President Biden's full budget request for fiscal 2023, "so that we can continue these efforts and begin to improve service to the people who are counting on us."

State leaders, meanwhile, largely deflect blame to Washington. "This is a national program," said Anne Mayo, South Carolina's director of Disability Determination Services, when asked why her office is taking 249 days on average to process a claim. "It's Social Security's program. We follow their policies and procedures." Political sensitivities around the backlog are so intense that the national organization representing disability examiners declined to comment on the record.

The job has become "untenable" in many states, a spokeswoman for Michelle Schroeder, Wisconsin's disability determination director, said in an email.

Without drastic change, the disability system's struggles could worsen. Auditors at the Government Accountability Office warned this year that with 80 million aging baby boomers at risk of disabling conditions, the potential for chaos could grow, particularly as the pandemic added a "new and unprecedented challenge" to Social Security's mission.

"They could have been more responsive," Scott Panckeri, acting director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Disability Determination, said of Social Security. "They erred on the side of caution, and it was to the detriment of some states. When you have a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, you need to be a little more creative."

Following publication of this story online earlier this week, lawmakers from both parties called for action to address the backlog in disability claims. Top House and Senate Democrats urged a drastic boost in funding to the department, and the White House asked Congress to adopt Biden's budget including a funding increase "to improve service for Americans on Social Security."

The top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, meanwhile, called for "serious bipartisan reforms" to address poor customer service and the explosion in pending claims at the agency. "Lawmakers in both parties are getting an earful at home about the backlog and poor customer service at the Social Security Administration, and are demanding answers on this and the disarray in its workforce," Rep. Kevin Brady (Tex.) said in a statement.

Pandemic's upheaval

Congress paved the way for the current crisis in the 1950s, when lawmakers created the first of two federal benefit programs for people with disabilities. The complex vetting system was meant to ensure the government served only those who qualified. In an appeal to conservatives, each state was given primary responsibility for reviewing claims — along with offices in Puerto Rico and D.C. — creating jobs and devolving power from Washington. The system created an uneasy balance of power.

"You're trying to run a federal agency out of the states," said Melissa Spencer, a former deputy associate commissioner for Social Security's Office of Disability Policy. "The politics and tensions have always been complicated." Policymakers for years have suggested in frustration that federal employees take over.

The partnership was often tenuous, and the pandemic frayed it more. The states' costs are reimbursed by Social Security, which sets policies and regulations and determines when states can hire. The states train employees, set salaries and award benefits at rates that vary wildly. Social Security must sign off when a state wants to give its workers a raise.

Starting pay for examiners varies from $16,128 in Puerto Rico to $75,506 in D.C., an outlier. Florida pays $32,655 and Minnesota, $47,899. If Social Security doesn't have money, jobs can go unfilled. Even when funding is available, hiring freezes at the state level can leave them vacant.

The job itself was always too complex for the pay, say those still doing it and others who've left. Examiners must review hundreds of pages of a claimant's medical records and work history. Yet they are not trained as medical experts — and in some states don't even need college degrees.

New hires go through time-consuming background checks. Fully learning the job takes two or three years. And in recent years the work grew tougher: Now more evidence is required to back up a claim, and by 2020 the average number of pages in a case file had grown to 940 from 160 a decade earlier, federal auditors found.

"It's one of those jobs where a lot of people jump into it, and they don't realize what they have to do and how hard it is," said Logan Mrozenski, who left the disability office in Madison, Wis., after 18 months because, he said, "I didn't want to be a bureaucrat."

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, most of the 14,400 state employees were sent home. Social Security barred some offices from taking desktop computers home, effectively closing down operations for months until laptops could be ordered and distributed. The states had been fighting for more than a decade for Voice over Internet Protocol technology to speed up customer service, but Social Security had not delivered.

"Everyone's numbers took a hit," recalled Mrozenski, who dismantled his desktop computer and monitor, lifted them into an empty laundry basket and drove them to his apartment to keep working. Technology challenges forced nine states to suspend operations during the transition, auditors found.

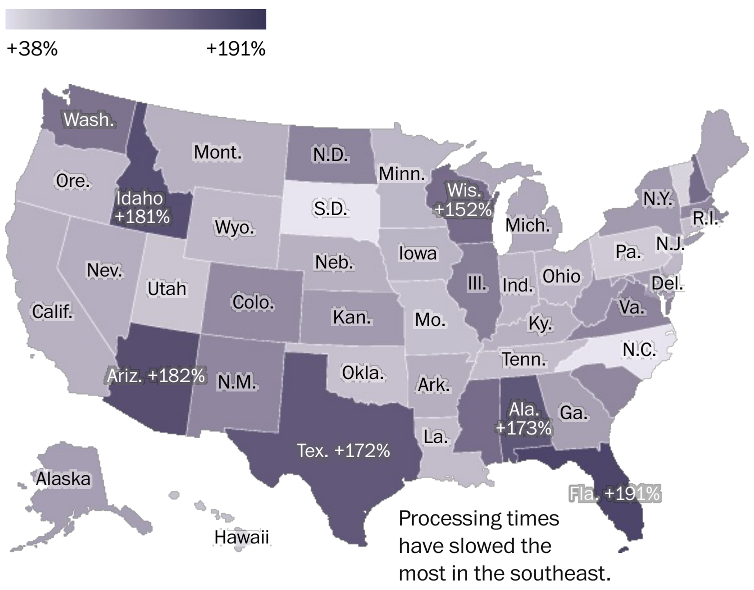
In Texas and other states, teleworking staffs were ordered to use their private phones. They were not reimbursed for the cost of their plans. Pennsylvania ordered 600 flip phones that took months to arrive — but many claimants wouldn't answer calls because they thought they were coming from spam numbers. "I was really taken aback by how limited the technology was at the DDS," Ian Harlow, who ran the state's disability determination office from 2020 until early this year, told Social Security's advisory board at a forum last year.

In most offices, the situation grew only more chaotic. Claimants were seeing fewer doctors, leaving examiners with the vexing task of documenting their 12-month medical histories. Retrieving records from medical offices whose employees were furloughed or working remotely took months. And when records arrived, they were often stale: Some people had developed new conditions requiring treatment that then needed review.

States confronted an exodus of examiners and physicians, both contractors paid to examine claimants and staff who make final decisions on benefits. Cases left behind were redistributed and sent to the back of the queue. Or long waits for a doctor's sign-off would delay decisions.

Longer and longer processing times for disability cases

Texas's average processing time for initial claims has more than doubled, from 79 days in fiscal 2019 to 214 days in fiscal 2022.



Source: Social Security Administration NICK MOURTOUPALAS/THE WASHINGTON POST

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Hiring stalled as states faced the repercussions of decades without competitive wages. Trainees would make it through months of instruction only to quit. In desperation, some states brought on even less-qualified people, a further drag on productivity. A growing number of examiners went out on mental health leave, citing the stress of the job.

Yet instead of easing the mounting delays, Social Security's decisions in Washington made the situation worse on the ground in many states.

Coronavirus concerns led the agency to tell states to suspend exams by outside doctors for two months, jamming the system. It was not until the fall of 2020 that all states had resumed in-person exams.

Nine states from Ohio to California mandated furloughs, and Social Security was able to persuade just three to exempt their disability staffs. Caseloads soared. Examiners who had normally juggled 70 to 100 cases saw their numbers double.

'Sheer amount of work'

Yet just as employees struggled to keep up, Social Security threw down a fresh gauntlet: a new case-processing system to track claims. The $153 million investment, facing years of delays, was supposed to improve customer service and save money. An initial rollout in 2019 hit glitches with functionality. The effort restarted in late 2021, but the timing was perilous.

States had tailored the old systems to their needs, and the new one not only took months for many employees to learn but also had limited options. State directors blame Social Security for an ill-timed rollout they say resulted in severe delays to processing claims.

"We had a devil of a time trying to get a handle on it," said Basil Merenda, a deputy secretary for Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry, the parent agency of the disability determination office. "We still have nightmares."

Across the country, a bug prevented outside doctors from being paid for months.

"The old system had been customized over decades to maximize efficiency for our examiners and meet Wisconsin's specific needs," the Wisconsin spokeswoman wrote. In Austin, a spokeswoman for Mary Wolfe, administrator of the Texas office, blamed shortcomings with the new system for the 75,000 cases that appeared in the queue in September. The claims had sat unopened for six months.

For the workforce left behind, the mission of helping the poor and disabled soon collapsed into the dreariness of an assembly line.

"It became up to me to pretty much figure out by myself if this person was disabled or not," said one examiner who lasted 18 months in Austin, making $41,000, before leaving in May, and who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution from her former bosses. "I would walk in there, and it was like there was a weight on my shoulders. The support just wasn't there."

A former examiner in Florida, explaining why he quit in September after 12 years, described the job this way: "It was all about the numbers. It was the sheer amount of work. We didn't care if you were denied or approved, we just wanted the cases out."



PHOTOS BY THOMAS SIMONETTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Rusty Swain of Brooksville, Fla., has neck and back injuries from an employment-related accident 10 years ago, and can work only occasional small jobs. ABOVE: He says his bills have been piling up as he waits on a disability claim pending for a year.

For claimants desperate to learn if they will be approved for benefits or have to start the torturous appeal process, the delays have been devastating. If they or their lawyers can get through on the phone, the operator can't tell them the status of their case until, like the 75,000 claims in Texas, it has been assigned for review.

"We don't even have someone to go to ask, 'What's happened to this person's case?'" said Melanie Kohut, a legal assistant for a disability practice in Decatur, Ga.

In Florida, QuikAid, a large-volume disability firm, has 11,000 pending claims, up from 3,000 in a typical year, chief executive David Wright said. One of them is Rusty Swain's. Swain, 59, was a commercial electrician in Tampa when a collision with an I-beam on a construction site 10 years ago left him with severe neck and back injuries. After several surgeries, he has lost the use of his right arm and suffers from arthritis in his neck. He can no longer work anything but occasional small jobs, he said. He lives in a small trailer as he waits for a ruling on his claim, which has been pending for a year.

"I've done nothing but physical labor since I was 15," Swain said. "I'm not a slacker. I pay taxes. I just need disability insurance."

State offices confronting the mounting claims say there are few obvious solutions. Social Security says it has agreed to a surge in new hires, but the hot labor market may stall those efforts if higher salaries don't come with it. A quarter of examiners quit or retired this year, double the number two years ago.

South Carolina recently was able to hire into just 24 of 50 open positions, Mayo, the state director, said in an email through the Social Security public affairs office. So many doctors left that she tried for the first time to recruit nurses to complete medical evaluations, according to March 2021 minutes of the state Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the disability division's parent agency. It is unclear if she succeeded.

To stanch its losses, Oklahoma officials advertised last year for 100 examiner jobs. "We got 70 applications," recalled Nickles, the retired disability determination director. "We weren't getting the best of the best. In the grand scheme of things, it's a low-paying job." Some directors tried for bonuses and raises, but each was a struggle, dependent on governors and Social Security.

Social Security officials said they have "approved all [state] salary increase requests that meet the necessary and allowable costs."

But some state officials dispute that. Wolfe pleaded with Social Security officials for three years for higher starting pay for examiners in Texas, her spokeswoman said, because she could not attract them in a city where the median home price is now $640,000.

Social Security denied her request "multiple times" before finally relenting in July.

In July, Texas gave starting examiners a $16,800 raise to $55,000 — the first significant increase since 2006.

But Austin continues to hemorrhage staff. While examiners went without pay boosts, they watched Wolfe get a raise of approximately $5,200 during the pandemic, rubbing salt in the wound, several examiners said. "While working to address equity pay, managers were encouraged and authorized to continue awarding merit increases and career path raises to all eligible [DDS] employees," the spokeswoman for Wolfe said. The docket for veteran examiners has grown to a record 19 claims a week, several current employees said. They're juggling 217 cases at once.

To boost morale, the office had long given examiners a "golden ticket week" with no new cases, a chance to regroup and work on old ones. The practice ended in the pandemic and has not been restored.

"The workplace environment was just so difficult to be in," said Stephanie Koenig, who worked in the Texas office for two years. She quit in 2021 to work at a position in public health that pays her 20 percent more.

Alice Crites contributed to this report.

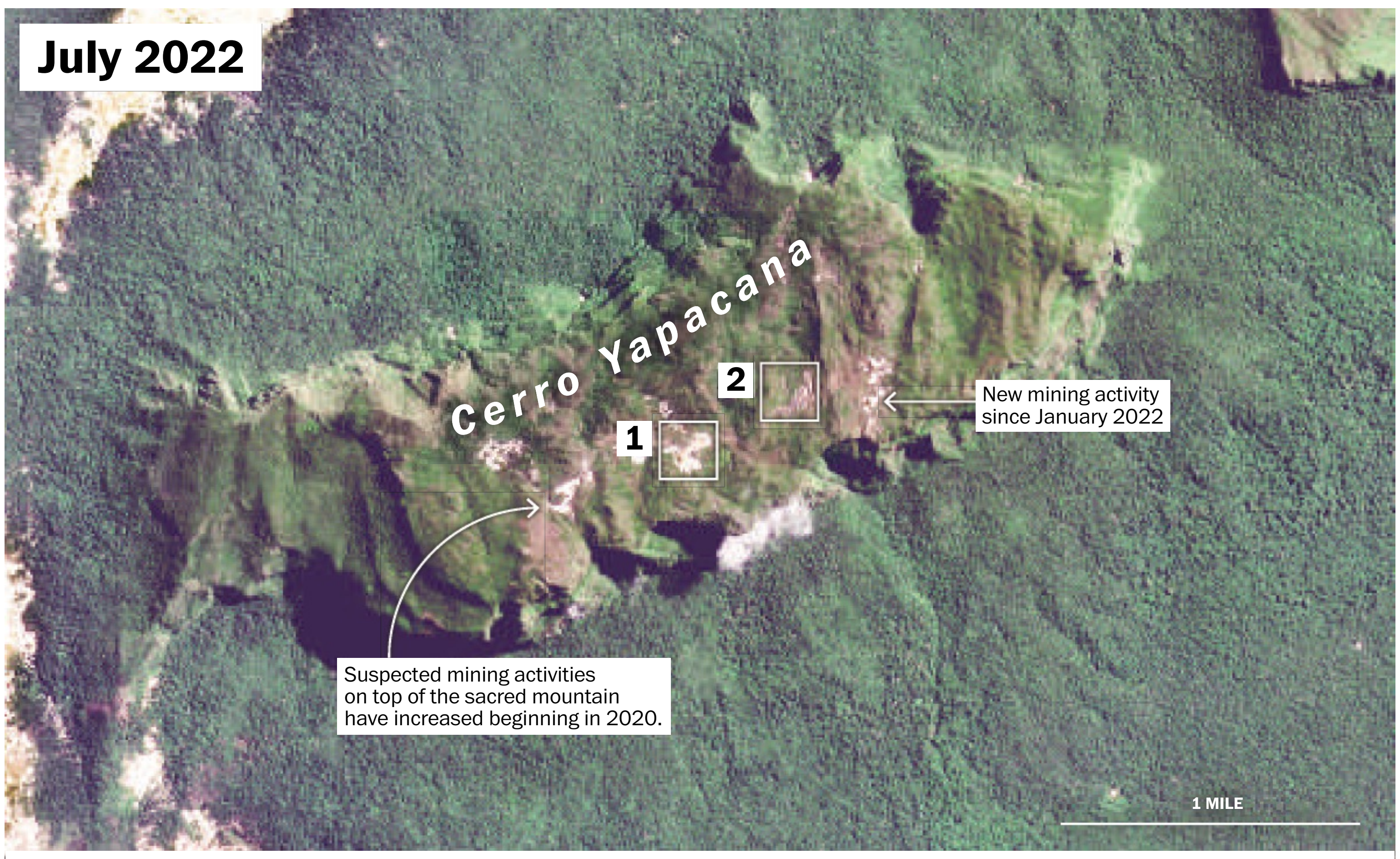


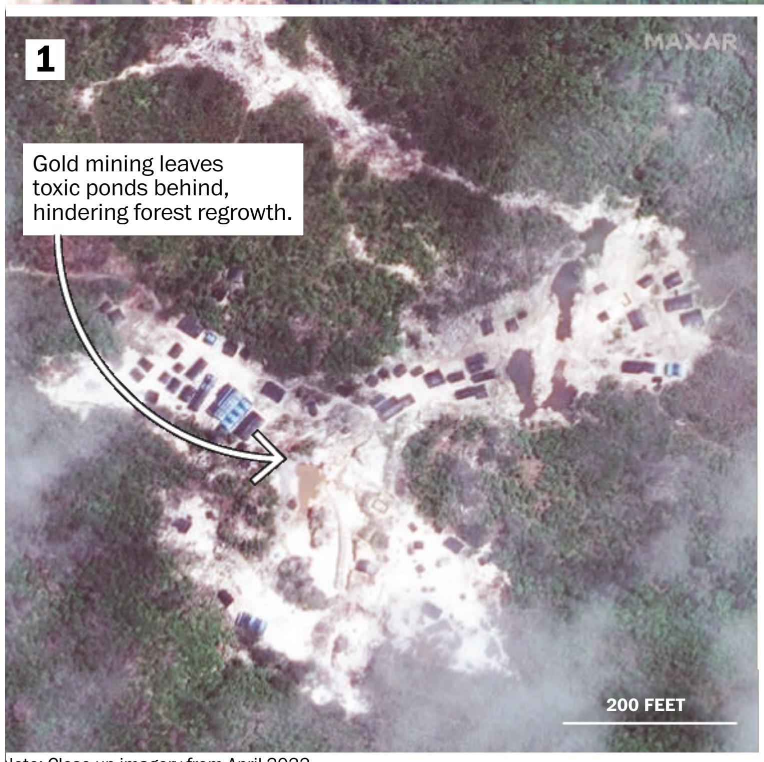
THE WORLD

A sacred Venezuelan mountain is being stripped for gold

Illegal mining is harming a protected national park home to wildlife found nowhere else. Satellite imagery show the extent of the damage.

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT, ANA VANESSA HERRERO AND JANICE KAI CHEN







Note: Close-up imagery from April 2022.
Sources: Planet monthly composite, Maxar

Satellite images confirm that mining groups have made their way to the top of the Cerro Yapacana, a sandstone butte reaching 4,415 feet in Venezuela's corner of the Amazon rainforest. Advocacy groups used high-resolution imagery to identify at least 8,000 mining camps or pieces of machinery in Yapacana National Park's lowlands. They found 425 more camps or pieces of machinery at the top of the tepui.





Note: Scale varies in this perspective.
Sources: Planet, NASA

Unauthorized gold miners are illegally stripping the top of a sacred mountain in a protected national park in Venezuela — and the government in Caracas is turning a blind eye as some officials allegedly take a cut.

Cerro Yapacana, a sandstone butte reaching 4,415 feet above sea level in Venezuela's corner of the Amazon rainforest, is home to wildlife that can be found nowhere else in the world. With its distinctive tabletop shape, the geological landmark is known by Indigenous communities in this region of South America as a tepui, or "House of God."

Now heavy machinery rips into the mineral-rich earth. A city of illegal miners, armed groups and Venezuelan state forces has turned Yapacana National Park into the largest illegal mining site in this section of the Amazon, an operation that threatens the rainforest that scientists say is crucial to mitigating global change.

"They've turned the mountain into sand," said William, a former miner who still works in the area, who spoke on the condition that his last name be withheld out of fear for his safety. "A tree will never be able to grow there."

The Yapacana has long been a hub for illegal gold extraction. But new satellite imagery provided to The Washington Post reveals just how entrenched the mining has become, from the foothills to the hard-to-reach top of the tepui. More than seven square miles of the park have been affected by gold mines.

The advocacy groups Amazon Conservation Association in Washington and SOS Orinoco in Venezuela used high-resolution imagery to identify at least 8,000 mining camps or pieces of machinery in the park's lowlands. They found 425 more camps or pieces of machinery at the top of the tepui.

"What we typically see is a smattering of dwellings and equipment," said Matt Finer, a senior research specialist with Amazon Conservation. "But when we zoomed in on Yapacana it was like … 'What is this?'"

A Post analysis of separate satellite imagery confirmed the presence of mining camps and equipment.

The government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Finer, who has studied mining across the Amazon, said he was stunned by the density of the operations. He said he hadn't seen anything like it in a supposedly protected national park.

"It's really the lowest-hanging fruit, protecting national parks," Finer said. "If you can't clean up your national parks, you're really in trouble."

Here, analysts and locals say, Venezuelan authorities are not only allowing illegal mining and armed groups in a protected national park, but some are also profiting from it.

Guerrilla groups from across the border in Colombia have for years exploited the Yapacana for gold. After Colombia's 2016 peace accords reduced violence between government forces and the guerrillas, their presence in the park grew, the International Crisis Group reports.

Now the National Liberation Army, a rebel group that did not sign the accords, controls local justice and taxes residents, according to Bram Ebus, a consultant to the International Crisis Group who has visited the mines in recent years.

Some of the gold is given to Venezuelan authorities who fly in on helicopters to collect their cut, Ebus said.

Cristina Vollmer Burelli, the founder of SOS Orinoco, said the group has been issuing warnings about the destruction since 2018, while "the world focused in other parts of the Amazon."

Maduro, appearing at the COP27 climate conference in Egypt last month, called for the protection of the Amazon.

"Millennia of existence have left an irreparable mark on the Amazon," he said. "We believe that it is the original peoples who should teach us how to save and how to live with nature."

Maduro blamed the "great damage" to the rainforest on capitalism. He didn't mention the role his government is said to have played by allegedly allowing illegal mining.

William, the former miner, said Venezuelan forces once protected the site.

"Before, the National Guard wouldn't let you in," said the man, who grew up in the park and continues to transport miners across the border by boat. "Now it's turned into a business."

Karen once helped run a convenience store near the mines. She said everyone from the miners to local shopkeepers was expected to pay taxes in gold to three groups: the guerrillas, Indigenous authorities and the army.

Hildebrando Arangú, the head of Venezuela's National Parks Institute from 2004 to 2009, said the expansion of mining atop the tepui is causing "irreversible damage."

How miners are making it to the top is unclear. "When I worked there," Arangú said, "the only way to do it was with the support of the Armed Forces, by helicopters."

William said most of the machinery is carried up the mountain in parts by groups of men on foot. The trek takes at least five hours. He said he has done it twice: "You have to climb up like a spider at times."

The destruction of the ecosystem is threatening species that have evolved in isolation on the mountain.

Venezuelan explorer Charles Brewer-Carias identified mining activity at the top of Cerro Yapacana in the 1980s. During that trip he photographed a *Navia saxicola*, a rare flowering plant. He said the bromeliad, which can be found only at the top of the tepui, is probably lost forever.

The same could be true of the so-called demonic poison frog, a tiny red amphibian that makes its home in the bromeliad. Celsa Señaris, a Venezuelan herpetologist, says it's impossible for researchers to access the park to know for sure.

"I wonder if it's already extinct," Señaris said.

DIGEST

CHINA

Xi's Saudi Arabia visit aims to deepen ties

Chinese President Xi Jinping began a visit to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday that Beijing said marked its biggest diplomatic initiative in the Arab world, as Riyadh expands global alliances beyond a long-standing partnership with the West.

The meeting between the global economic powerhouse and Gulf energy giant comes as Saudi ties with Washington are strained by U.S. criticism of Riyadh's human rights record and Saudi support for oil output curbs before the November midterm elections.

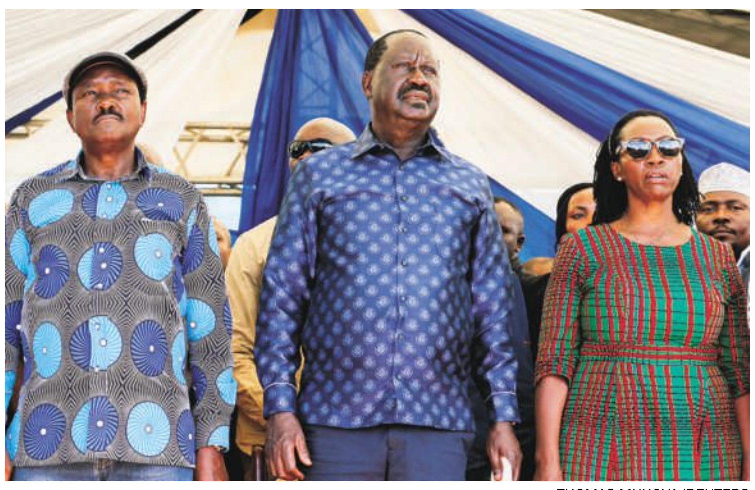
The White House said Xi's visit was an example of Chinese attempts to exert influence, and that this would not change U.S. policy toward the Middle East.

"We are mindful of the influence that China is trying to grow around the world," White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters.

China, the world's biggest energy consumer, is a major trade partner of Gulf oil and gas producers. Bilateral ties have expanded under the region's economic diversification push, raising U.S. concerns about growing Chinese involvement in sensitive infrastructure in the Gulf.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman on Wednesday said that Riyadh would remain a "trusted and reliable" energy partner for Beijing and that the two countries would boost cooperation in energy supply chains by establishing a regional center in the kingdom for Chinese factories.

— Reuters



THOMAS MUKOYA/REUTERS

From left, former vice president Kalonzo Musyoka, opposition leader Raila Odinga and Martha Karua attend a protest of alleged government "hounding" of four election commissioners in Nairobi on Tuesday. The commissioners faced an investigation after disputing the outcome of Kenya's August election, Bloomberg News reports.

ETHIOPIA

Basic services restored to key parts of Tigray

Basic services like electricity and telecoms have been restored to key parts of Ethiopia's Tigray region following the signing of a cease-fire deal a month ago, but most areas are still cut off from the world.

The agreement signed Nov. 2 requires Ethiopia's federal government to restore basic services to Tigray, which has been mostly without phone, internet and banking services since war erupted two years ago. Power has also been disrupted to the region of more than 5 million people. On Tuesday, the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported that Tigray's capital, Mekele, had been reconnected to the national power grid following maintenance to a transmission line.

— Associated Press

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban authorities hold public execution

Taliban authorities on Wednesday executed an Afghan convicted of killing another man, the first public execution since the former insurgents took over Afghanistan last year, a spokesman said.

The announcement underscored the intentions by Afghanistan's new rulers to continue hard-line policies implemented since they took over the country in August 2021 and to stick to their interpretation of Islamist law, or sharia.

The execution, carried out with an assault rifle by the victim's father, took place in western Farah province before hundreds of spectators and many top Taliban officials, according to Zabihullah Mujahid, the top Taliban government spokesman. Some officials came from the capital, Kabul.

The decision to carry out the punishment was "made very carefully," Mujahid said.

— Associated Press

Greece slams Turkish threats: Greece's foreign ministry has slammed what it called Turkish threats of war, after the Turkish foreign minister threatened to "take action" against Greece in the wake of a military exercise in the Aegean Sea. In a statement issued Wednesday, the foreign ministry said that Turkey's "repeated threats of war" were "completely unacceptable," and noted that Greece respects international law and the United Nations' Law of the Sea.

— From news services

As Turkey holds up NATO expansion, U.S. mulls options

Pressure on Ankara builds to back accession of Finland and Sweden

BY MISSY RYAN



SUSAN WALSH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden meets with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the NATO summit in Madrid in June. Turkey is one of two NATO nations blocking the entry of the Nordic nations.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken joined NATO ministers gathered in Romania last week, hailing the unity of the alliance in its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has seen member states scramble to provide weapons and funding to aid Kyiv's fight.

But when Blinken welcomes his counterparts from Finland and Sweden in Washington this week, it will be the differing, and sometimes dissonant, agendas of the bloc's 30 members that will take center stage.

Long after the June 2022 summit when Western leaders had hoped to cement the Nordic nations' entry into NATO, the accession of Finland and Sweden remains blocked by two holdouts, Turkey and Hungary, which have not yet ratified the required protocols.

While Hungary has committed to doing so when its legislators reconvene in February, uncertainty about when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will assent — and the possibility he could delay until after Turkish elections next year — presents the Biden administration with a dilemma as it seeks to maintain a pro-Ukraine coalition already tested by steep energy prices and domestic politics.

The delay also highlights the ability of a sole NATO member to bog down alliance priorities and underscores the complexity of U.S.-Turkish ties at a moment when Erdogan is providing critical military support to Ukraine while deepening economic ties with Russia and threatening an offensive into northern Syria that U.S. military officials fear could put American troops at risk.

"The pressure is building up from the West," said Gonul Tol, a Turkey scholar at the D.C.-based Middle East Institute. As Turkey makes the alliance wait, she said, U.S. officials are reluctant to let Erdogan "use the NATO accession card to extract concessions on other files."

Ahead of talks with Blinken at the State Department on Thursday, Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said that Sweden has already taken numerous steps to accommodate the accession memorandum signed by Turkey, Finland and Sweden in June — including changes to Sweden's constitution that take effect in January to tighten antiterror rules, a key Turkish demand.

Stockholm has also announced an end to an informal embargo on arms sales to Turkey and in recent weeks extradited a Kurdish man with alleged links to the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a long insurgent war against Erdogan's government. The extradited man had unsuccessfully sought asylum in Sweden.

Billstrom expressed hope that Turkey would move shortly to ratify the two countries' entry into NATO, but declined to cite any specific timeline.

"Any delay outside of the most necessary is of course very, very bad," he said in an interview. "I think that everybody has to take their responsibility on board and do the job they have to do."

After months of waiting, NATO officials have begun to apply some public pressure on Turkey. During a visit to Istanbul early last month, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stressed that Finland and Sweden have made good on their side of the deal.

"It is time to welcome Finland and Sweden as full members of NATO," he said in remarks alongside Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. "In these dangerous times, it is even more important to finalize their accession to prevent any misunderstanding or miscalculation in Moscow."

The accession of two countries that punch above their weight militarily would give NATO a boost and represent an additional setback to Moscow, adding 800 miles to Russia's border with the alliance.

It isn't the first time that political concerns have delayed NATO expansion plans. In 2019, Greece agreed to support Macedonia's accession following a years-long delay — but only after the latter formally moved to change its name to North Macedonia.

It remains unclear what will satisfy Erdogan, who is scrambling to shore up his internal support ahead of presidential polls expected in May or June 2023. This week, Turkey's justice minister demanded the extradition of "all terrorists that Turkey wants" before his country will sign off on Sweden's NATO bid, suggesting that only a handful of extraditions will not suffice.

Turkey's concerns appear to be primarily directed at Sweden rather than Finland. Swedish media reported Wednesday that the country's attorney general issued an opinion that several additional individuals Turkey has identified in their NATO demands should not be extradited.

Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, speaking in a separate interview, said the delay had generated concern at a time of intense security upheaval in Europe. He referenced apparent attacks on Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea in September — which Nordic nations deemed sabotage — and an incident last month in which an explosion killed two people in Poland which sparked fears of a Russian attack into NATO, but which U.S. and NATO officials later said appeared to be an errant Ukrainian air defense missile.

"Luckily, it was not an attack from Russia. But of course you can imagine that if it had been an attack from Russia … it would have been a very complex situation for countries like Finland or Sweden: Do we associate with NATO decisions and action when we are not covered by Article V?" Article V refers to NATO's mutual defense pledge.

> *"It's a question of who's going to blink first. While [President] Biden says he's not going to do anything, I think this will take a last-minute intervention from the White House."*
>
> **Soner Cagaptay,** a Turkey scholar at Washington Institute for Near East Policy

U.S. officials acknowledge they have taken an arms-length approach to the accession debate, as they seek to avoid being pulled into a thorny discussion over the relationship with Ankara, parts of which have invoked congressional scrutiny.

While the Pentagon has said it supports a proposed deal to sell Ankara dozens of new F-16 fighter jets and upgrades for its current F-16 fleet, the sale already faces opposition from some key lawmakers in part due to Turkey's hostile relationship with Greece.

Criticism of that potential sale threatens to compound congressional antagonism over Turkey's 2020 purchase of Russia's sophisticated S-400 air defense system, a deal that resulted in U.S. sanctions and Turkey's exclusion from the U.S. F-35 stealth fighter program.

The NATO debate comes as U.S. officials voice concern that a threatened Turkish offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria could put the hundreds of American troops there at risk, as occurred in 2019 when Ankara launched a similar operation. A recent cross-border Turkish strike came within 150 yards of American personnel in Syria, U.S. officials have said.

U.S. support for Kurdish fighters there, whom Ankara views as part of the PKK, has been a thorn in U.S.-Turkish ties since that partnership began at the height of the war against the Islamic State.

The Turkish Embassy in Washington could not be immediately reached for comment. Ankara's long-standing security concerns were underscored last month when an explosion on a busy Istanbul street killed at least six people in an attack Turkish authorities blamed on the PKK.

American officials acknowledge that Erdogan has staked out a unique, and often beneficial, position among NATO nations in regards to Russia's war in Ukraine, supplying drones and other military gear to Ukraine while serving as an intermediary between NATO and Russian President Vladimir Putin, helping to broker a crucial grain export deal.

At the same time, Turkey has deepened economic ties with Russia despite successive rounds of Western sanctions. And while Erdogan's reticence to ratify Finland and Sweden's NATO bid may be tied mainly to domestic concerns, Western officials note that the delay only serves Putin, who has long complained about NATO encroachment.

Billstrom noted that there is only so much his government can do in attempting to clear the way for NATO entry.

"It is necessary to take into account the fact that Sweden has an independent judiciary and the government won't be able to do things which are outside of these limitations," he said.

He said Turkey needs to follow through with commitments of its own, for example improving coordination in tracking individuals who commit crimes in Sweden and then flee to Turkey.

Soner Cagaptay, a Turkey scholar at Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said he expected Erdogan to give his consent shortly before the election, maximizing the political gain of conciliatory steps by Finland and Sweden as "a complete vindication of Turkey's position."

Cagaptay said that while American officials may want to stay out of the Sweden-Finland-Turkey debate, they may need to step in to help seal the deal.

"It's a question of who's going to blink first," he said. "While [President] Biden says he's not going to do anything, I think this will take a last-minute intervention from the White House."



WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia killed 441 civilians extrajudicially, U.N. finds

BY MIRIAM BERGER

Russian forces killed extrajudicially at least 441 civilians outside of Kyiv, in what probably amounted to war crimes, in the first weeks of the invasion of Ukraine, according to a U.N. report released Thursday. The actual number of civilians summarily killed is likely to be "considerably higher," the report found.

Based on investigations launched after hundreds of bodies of civilians were found following the Russian retreat from the Kyiv area in early April, the report by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights documents in brutal detail the violence inflicted on Ukrainians in occupied areas around the capital.

The findings add to mounting evidence that Russian forces have targeted and summarily executed Ukrainian civilians in grave violations of international law.

Witnesses told U.N. investigators that under Russian occupation, anything perceived to constitute support for Ukrainian forces, including camouflage-patterned clothing and text message histories, became grounds for death.

Some civilians killed in makeshift detention facilities were found with their hands bound, with gunshot wounds and injuries suggesting torture, the U.N. found. Others were shot dead in their backyards, in convoys of cars while fleeing, while on bikes or walking to find food or see relatives.

The U.N. investigated extrajudicial killings in 102 villages and towns between Feb. 24, the day Russia invaded, and April 6, when its forces retreated from around Kyiv. Nearly 90 percent of the civilians killed in these cases were men.

Summary executions occurred across the three regions — Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy — though U.N. investigators found higher death counts in some cities, such as Bucha, where they documented 73 summary killings of civilians and were working to corroborate 105 more.

In one incident, on March 7, Russian soldiers invaded a home in Bucha and detained a 27-year-old man, according to the report. The mother found her son in the yard of a house the next day: he looked terrified, appeared to have an injured hand and was surrounded by soldiers, who ordered her to stay away, she told U.N. investigators. The day after Russian troops retreated on March 30, she found him in the basement of the house shot dead.

The report highlighted Russia's "absence of meaningful investigation" into the alleged extrajudicial killings by its soldiers.

As of late September, Ukraine's prosecutor general registered more than 35,000 allegations of Russian violations of the "the rules of war," according to the United Nations.

A Ukrainian court in May convicted the first, and so far only, Russian soldier of summarily killing a civilian. International efforts to build war crimes cases are underway, though trials are probably years away.

The report was released as U.N. human rights commissioner Volker Türk traveled in Ukraine. "I have been here now for four days, in sub-zero temperatures," Türk said in a statement Wednesday. "I have seen for myself the horrors, suffering and the daily toll" on ordinary people.

While the U.N. can investigate atrocities and issue condemnatory General Assembly resolutions, it has not been able to take much substantive action in Ukraine, since Russia holds a veto on the Security Council. At a Security Council meeting this week, Russian and U.S. diplomats accused each other of disinterest in peace talks.

During a televised meeting Wednesday in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin showed no indication of wanting to end the conflict. The war in Ukraine, which he calls a "special military operation," would "be a long process," he said.

After months of veiled nuclear threats, Putin defended Russia's nuclear policies. While the possibility of nuclear war has risen, "we have not gone crazy, we are aware of what nuclear weapons are," Putin said, adding that Russia's nuclear strategy is centered on "retaliatory strikes."

The meeting, with a "civil society and human rights" council populated with Kremlin loyalists and the leaders of pro-war groups, included some discussion of tough conditions on the front lines as the weather worsens. But Putin said Russia should dig in for the long haul.

While Russian forces are not thoroughly equipped for the coming cold, much of Ukraine will be forced to face winter with tenuous access to energy. Weeks of targeted attacks have devastated the country's grid. The Biden administration is set to convene a meeting with oil and gas executives Thursday to discuss U.S. support for Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

Natalia Abbakumova and Mary Ilyushina in Riga, Latvia, and Kelly Kasulis Cho in Seoul contributed to this report.

Mud and Russian reinforcements slow Ukrainian push into occupied Luhansk

UKRAINE FROM A1

identify by his call sign, Tor, because of the security risks.

"As soon as they lose that, they'll have to abandon their positions," Tor said. "They won't be able to bring in reinforcements or more ammunition."

Less than a month after Moscow withdrew its troops from the western bank of the Dnieper River and the city of Kherson — the sole regional capital Russia had captured in this invasion — the focus of the war has once again turned to eastern Ukraine, where Russia has stoked armed conflict since 2014.

Here, Ukraine is still on the offensive. But the gains are slower and harder-fought than the surprise counteroffensive that expelled Russian forces from nearly the entire northeast Kharkiv region in just one week in September.

The fight here epitomizes the grinding pace that military analysts and Western intelligence officials expect the war to slow to this winter. Ukrainians have refuted suggestions of an operational pause, saying that would just give Russia time to regenerate its forces at a moment they appear weakened.

But Ukrainian soldiers concede that the battles in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions, collectively known as Donbas, are tougher — perhaps reflecting the new priority of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his commanders: avoiding further defeats after the humiliating retreats from the north and south.

Putin has repeatedly said that the main goal of his war is to "liberate" all of Donbas, meaning losses in the region would mark a clear and obvious failure.

Front lines here are well reinforced by second and third waves of Russian defenses. Sometimes reinforcements are brought in hours after a Ukrainian attack — often recently mobilized fighters.

Oleh, a company commander for one of the Ukrainian brigades fighting near Kreminna, said that after his unit attacked Russian positions in a village north of the city, drone reconnaissance observed two trucks bringing in more soldiers early the next morning.

"The enemy just brings in the mobilized in piles, and they just get pushed to the front, without any training," he said. The Post agreed to withhold Oleh's surname because he still has family members living under Russian occupation in his home region of Luhansk.

"There's a lot of them," Oleh said of the Russians. "They just bring them here as meat."

The Ukrainians are fighting to hold off a mass of enemy forces, including mercenaries, in the Donetsk region city of Bakhmut, currently the site of the bloodiest battle in the war. Their goal is to keep Russia from attempting to encroach on the cities of Kramatorsk and Slovyansk.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has started to make gains at the edges of the occupied Luhansk region, which borders mainland Russia. Multiple brigades are attacking on two fronts — from the north, toward the occupied city of Svatove, and here from the east, toward Kreminna.

Taking both would threaten Russia's hold on the cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, which Moscow's forces captured in much-hyped victories in late June and early July, following fierce battles.

"Any failure for them now is devastating, so they're fighting hard for every little piece," Tor said. "They fought many months for Lysychansk, and they're about to lose it."

Mixed in with Russia's inexperienced troops are veteran forces. Oleh said "Kadyrovites" — Chechen forces fighting for Moscow — had stormed his unit's positions over the weekend but took heavy losses.

"They don't even try to recover the bodies of their dead," he said. "Today, for example, they abandoned one of their wounded. We tried to help the man and evacuate him, but he didn't survive."

Oleh said contract soldiers from the Wagner mercenary group are also fighting in the area. Pro-Russian social media accounts have posted images of a vast "Wagner line" of defense — two rows of concrete pyramid blocks intended to stop tanks — stretching around parts of the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions and even along the Russian border.

Earlier this month, soldiers in Ukraine's 92nd Mechanized Brigade fighting on the northern edge of the Luhansk region, near Svatove, shrugged off those fortifications. "Boys, tell me, this . . . concrete triangle, would you shatter it with direct fire?" asked Oleksandr, a captain, who spoke on the condition that only his first name be used.

"Yes, of course, it'll turn to dust," replied a soldier standing on top of a "trophy" T-72 tank, which was seized from retreating Russian forces along with the equipment to repair it and the ammunition to arm it.

At that point, Oleksandr complained that the main thing hindering the Ukrainian advance was the mild, wet weather. Troops — and their tanks and armored personnel carriers — were literally stuck in the mud. But just a week later, a drop in temperature has made the battle ground firmer and more favorable.

The freeze also has its drawbacks. Soldiers in Tor's unit posted in the forest near Kreminna are so close to Russian forces that they won't dare to heat their outdoor living quarters, which could reveal their location to Russian drones flying overhead. They sleep in their coats, under light sleeping bags in the cold open air.

A week ago, they were some five miles farther back in this same forest.

One day's events feel like a month's worth here. There is just one narrow dirt road that winds into the forest. The Russians know it is a lifeline for the Ukrainians — used to bring in reinforcements and to evacuate any wounded — so they hit it constantly with artillery. At its edges are destroyed vehicles that in the past few days veered off just slightly to make room for oncoming traffic — and unluckily hit a mine.

Last week, while evacuating a wounded Ukrainian soldier with shrapnel wounds in his stomach and side that were causing internal bleeding, Roman Kabashnuy, a member of Tor's unit, sped down the bumpy road to get the soldier medical help faster. The man screamed in pain from the back seat while another soldier tried to hold him down. Slowing down could mean death — more shelling could occur at any moment — but driving too fast could cause the wounded man harm, too.

Just an hour after Kabashnuy drove Post journalists up the road to the unit's front-line position, the ride back looked different. New trees and branches were strewn across the road — signs of recent shelling. There was a fresh crater, too.

"Something has already changed," Kabashnuy said, while his comrade rushed out of the car to move a fallen tree out of the way. "This is how we live here."

Serhiy Morgunov and Kamila Hrabchuk contributed to this report.



PHOTOS BY SERHIY MORGUNOV FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A road near Kreminna on Ukraine's eastern front is blocked by branches and trees felled by recent Russian shelling, as seen on Saturday. Nicknamed the "Road of Life," it is an essential route to bring in reinforcements and to evacuate wounded forces fighting on the front lines.



Source: Institue for the Study of War
THE WASHINGTON POST



A deputy battalion commander, call sign Tor, near one of the Ukrainian military's forward-most positions on the eastern front, near Kreminna, on Saturday. He leads the Ukrainian National Guard's 5th Slobozhanska Brigade, which is aiming to help retake Luhansk.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Freed Ukrainian POWs tell of abuse in Russian captivity

Prisoner exchanges have increased as both sides run low on resources

BY JEFF STEIN AND KOSTIANTYN KHUDOV



ANASTASIA VLASOVA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Hospital workers collect clothing from a group of newly freed Ukrainian prisoners of war, to be sent for analysis as potential evidence of war crimes, in northeastern Ukraine on Tuesday.

NORTHEAST UKRAINE — The 60 prisoners of war arrived on Ukrainian soil Tuesday afternoon — free after the latest trade between Moscow and Kyiv, but still under strict rationing.

The nurses treating them at a hospital in northeast Ukraine were instructed to give each soldier no more than 300 milliliters of chicken soup, or about 20 tablespoons. Many were so malnourished during Russian captivity that they would be unable to digest more that, the hospital director said.

The POWs who arrived here, at a location that military authorities asked not be disclosed for security reasons, were a reminder that in addition to the thousands killed in action in Russia's war in Ukraine, and tens of thousands more wounded, there is yet a third category whose fate is often far murkier and about whom often far less is known.

Although they are supposed to be protected by the Geneva Conventions, which require humane treatment, the prisoners' physical condition — protruding shoulder blades and ribs, bandaged limbs, long scars — bore evidence of abuse from their months of imprisonment in addition to injuries from combat.

"Tasers, currents — they beat us with clubs; they beat us with sticks. I said goodbye to my life there more than once," said Vitalii, whose surname and military unit The Washington Post is not identifying for security reasons.

"There were such beatings that I could not stand them," Vitalii said. "My ribs were broken; my kidney was beaten off, it was lowered," he said, adding that he urinated blood for 10 days with no medical attention after his kidneys were hurt.

Vitalii and many of the other soldiers had been captured by Russian forces in late May in Mariupol, where they were among the last troops defending the Azovstal steel plant in one of the war's bloodiest battles.

Standing on the hospital's second floor in clean underwear, Mykola, 39, said the troops were subjected to beatings, electric shocks and suffocation with bags over their heads. The Post is identifying him only by first name for security reasons.

Mykola and his fellow soldiers had just taken off the clothes from their imprisonment, which were immediately sealed in yellow biohazard bags to be sent for inspection for evidence of war crimes.

The released POWs came from numerous units, including the 1st Severus Tank Brigade, the 1st Marine Battalion and the 53rd Mechanized Brigade.

"So many ways to loosen a person's tongue," Mykola said, describing the Russians' brutal interrogation techniques. "They hanged us in handcuffs."

With combat now grinding at a slower pace, in part because of pre-winter mud, and with prospects of a peace deal as remote as ever, Ukraine and Russia have ramped up prisoner exchanges in recent weeks — a recognition, at least, of what is arguably the lowest common denominator of mutual interest in wartime.

Since September, 817 Ukrainian prisoners have been released — a sharp jump compared with the 574 released during the first six months after Russia's invasion, according to Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukraine's coordination headquarters for the treatment of prisoners of war.

Three POW swaps occurred last week over just four days, in addition to Tuesday's exchange.

The releases are being greeted with joy and celebration by soldiers' families and friends, and provide a glimmer of hope for many more whose loved ones are still imprisoned or missing. The swaps also show that a line of communication exists, providing a potential framework — theoretically, at least — for future talks and cooperation.

But for all the comfort the exchanges bring to families, and to commanders responsible for captured comrades, experts caution that the rising number of POWs being freed could be an ominous sign about the war's direction.

David Silbey, a defense and military policy analyst at Cornell University, said the moves to offload prisoners might reflect struggles by Russia and Ukraine to maintain their supply chains and adequately provide food and shelter to their own troops, let alone to enemy prisoners.

The increased exchanges could also mean that the combatants now expect a more protracted conflict, and see a higher burden from indefinitely holding thousands of prisoners, said Rob Lee, senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Research Institute's Eurasia program.

"Especially when resources are running as low as they are, that extra mouth is pretty costly," Silbey said. "The Russians in particular have so many logistical issues, and trouble feeding their own troops — you add winter into all this, and you get a much more difficult situation."

For each side, Silbey said, holding prisoners is a potentially avoidable economic and logistical burden. Russia's economy has been hit hard by Western sanctions, while Ukraine's economy has suffered from a ceaseless Russian bombardment of its energy infrastructure.

"Both armies are trying to handle things in ways that are effective for them," Silbey said. "And prisoners are not useful to militaries."

Yusov, the Ukrainian spokesman, said officials have been working on the exchanges for months but confirmed that many more are happening now, in part because the number of POWs increases the longer the war goes on.

"Since September, the movement is greater, and in fact there are exchanges every week," Yusov said. "Each exchange is prepared for a long time and often feels overwhelming," he added. "This is complex, complex work."

The precise numbers of POWs on the Ukrainian and Russian sides remain unknown, as neither military discloses such data. It is even harder to assess how many are subject to physical or psychological torture.

The International Committee of the Red Cross says there are thousands of POWs and has demanded access to them, citing obligations in the Geneva Conventions.

United Nations officials have found evidence of torture and mistreatment of POWs by each side.

In a Nov. 15 report, Matilda Bogner, head of the U.N. human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, found that the "vast majority" of former Ukrainian POWs had been subject to torture and ill-treatment, including beatings and sexual abuse. Documented incidents included violence using batons, hammers, electric shock, genital torture, sensory deprivation, and hanging by the hands or legs.

Captured Russian soldiers also provided "credible allegations" of Ukrainian troops committing summary executions, Bogner reported, as well as "several cases of torture and ill-treatment." Bogner emphasized that Ukraine had provided the monitoring mission with access to Russian POWs, while Russia refused. She also noted that Ukraine has pledged to investigate allegations of torture committed by its side.

The newly freed Ukrainians described brutal torture at the hands of their Russian captors. The Post could not independently verify the specific individual allegations of torture.

Kateryna Skopina, 31, and Tanya, 42, were released Tuesday after spending 239 days of imprisonment together. Tanya, who asked that her surname be withheld for security reasons, said she was jailed in an 11-square-foot cell with five other female prisoners.

She and Skopina recounted being physically abused by Russian guards, who said they were particularly incensed by any singing or talking in Ukrainian. Tanya said they threatened the women if they fixed their hair into traditional Ukrainian braids.

"Your face is heated on the stove, demanding some information that you know nothing about at all," Skopina said. "It's a mockery. To run to the toilet in three seconds, and at the same time the girls are being beaten with a stun gun, hit on the head."

As the soldiers upstairs were checked for lice and ticks, Tamara Kazimir, 44, waited downstairs with her friend Anna Tereschenko, 27. Their husbands had been captured by Russian forces and held since the spring, and the women learned Monday night that they would not be among those released.

Still, Kazimir and Tereschenko came to the hospital hunting for information before the soldiers boarded a bus to a rehabilitation center. Tereschenko has spoken to about 20 other former POWs, and joined Telegram channels with other women whose husbands are being detained. She last heard that her husband was sentenced to life in prison by a Russian military tribunal, but no one has reported seeing him since September.

"Every time I find out that it was not my husband who was exchanged," Tereschenko said, "I always hope that someone saw him alive somewhere."

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LISTEN WHEREVER PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE.

Germany arrests 25 over far-right anti-government plot

Officials say aristocrat, former lawmaker among others planning violence

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, SOUAD MEKHENNET AND VICTORIA BISSET


CHRISTIAN MANG/REUTERS

Police secure an area in Berlin after 25 suspected members and supporters of a far-right group were detained in raids across Germany. Authorities said the group drew heavily from the Reichsbürger movement, which denies the existence of the modern German state.

BERLIN — German authorities on Wednesday arrested 25 people suspected of plotting to use armed force to storm parliament and violently overthrow the state, marking one of the country's largestever raids targeting right-wing extremists.

Those arrested included a 71-year-old German aristocrat, a former lawmaker from the right-wing Alternative for Germany party and at least one former armed forces member, according to the public prosecutor and officials.

The majority are German nationals accused of being part of a "terrorist organization," according to the prosecutor's statement. Three others — including a Russian national — were detained on suspicion of being supporters.

In addition to the arrests, police searched the properties of a further 27 individuals who are being investigated on an "initial suspicion" of being a member or having supported the organization, the statement said. More than 3,000 police officers were involved in the raids, which took place in 11 of Germany's 16 states.

The accused subscribe to a variety of baseless claims, including QAnon, but draw most heavily from the Reichsbürger movement, which denies the existence of the modern German state, officials said. But officials warned it would be naive to dismiss them as cranks.

"Of course, there are many busybodies who tell confused stories after drinking alcohol," Justice Minister Marco Buschmann tweeted. "Here, however, there were such strong suspicions that the group wanted to take violent action."

That included plans to use arms to storm the Reichstag, Germany's parliament building, he said.

The details of the suspected plot triggered comparisons to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. German politicians raised it as a reminder of what can happen when anti-constitutional plans are allowed to manifest.

"At the latest since January 6, 2021, we have known that anti-democratic speech can also be followed by actions directed against democracy and parliament," said Greens party lawmaker Konstantin von Notz. "Today, the German security authorities have succeeded in putting a stop to such plans to seize power."

The group is united in a belief that Germany is run by a "deep state," the prosecutor said, adding that members had been prepared to use violence — including the murder of state representatives — to carry out their aim of replacing the existing order in Germany with their own form of government. They had planned out the structure of the state apparatus they hoped to install, including departments of health, justice and foreign affairs.

Prosecutors said Heinrich XIII, Prince of Reuss, 71, a descendant of a royal dynasty from the German state of Thuringia, was head of the group's central "council." German media footage showed the prince, in a green tweed jacket, being led out of his Frankfurt apartment in handcuffs.

"Since November 2021, the members of the 'Council' have regularly met in secret to plan the intended takeover of power in Germany and the establishment of their own state structures," the prosecutor's statement said. Members believed that "liberation" would be assisted by the intervention of the "Alliance" — a secret society of military and governments, including those of Russia and the United States.

Heinrich XIII had reached out to Russian representatives inside Germany, the prosecutor's office said — although it added that there were no indications of a positive response to his overtures.

The former lawmaker arrested was Birgit Malsack-Winkemann, according to a security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. At one point she had been slated to become justice minister. At the time of her arrest, she was an active judge at the Berlin Regional Court.

The council also had a military arm, which would have been involved in the takeover of the state and was in charge of procuring weapons, the statement said. This body included former members of Germany's armed forces, and recruitment efforts were targeted toward members of the military and police.

The head of that operation, identified by authorities with the partial name Rüdiger v. P., was among those arrested Wednesday. German media said he was a former paratrooper.

The security official who spoke to The Washington Post said the raids were carried out with caution, as some suspects were known to be licensed weapons holders. But it was unclear if any illegal arms were discovered. While most of the arrests were carried out in Germany, one suspect was detained in Italy and another in Austria.

The network was unearthed in relation to investigations into four people who were arrested in April on suspicion of plotting to kidnap German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach, the official said.

"We are seeing a dangerous cocktail of people from the Reichsbürger movement, right-wing extremists, neo-Nazis and others who build on this group with their conspiracy theories," he added. The group included doctors and lawyers, "with the prince on top."

The Reichsbürger, or "Reich citizen," movement subscribes to a state based on Germany's pre-World War II borders. Modern laws and governments are considered illegitimate, and some members believe descendants of former German royal families should be reinstated in their positions.

It is a small extremist fringe but has been growing in recent years, rising to more prominence during the pandemic, when its members took to the street alongside a mix of conspiracy theorists and other right-wing groups. The movement is made up of small groups active across borders and online, with German intelligence warning that some subgroups have rapidly expanded their ranks.

In 2021, the movement was estimated to include about 21,000 people nationwide, according to a report by Germany's domestic intelligence agency, which estimated that about 10 percent of those were "violence-oriented."

"The investigations provide a glimpse into the abyss of a terrorist threat from the Reichsbürger milieu," said German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser. "The suspected terrorist organization uncovered today is — according to the state of the investigations — driven by violent overthrow fantasies and conspiracy ideologies."

The barracks of a unit of Germany's Special Forces Command, known as the KSK, was among the locations raided Wednesday, Der Spiegel magazine reported. The German Defense Ministry disbanded one unit of the elite counterterrorism force and announced a restructuring in 2020 because of the suspected extreme right-wing ties of its members.

According to Germany's Die Zeit newspaper, one of the defendants posted on Telegram shortly before the raids that public prosecutors, judges and health authorities would "soon find themselves in the dock at Nuremberg 2.0," in reference to the trials of Nazi war criminals held after World War II.

Some politicians raised questions over how capable the group was of carrying out its plans. "More details keep coming to light that raise doubts about whether these people were even clever enough to plan and carry out such a coup," Greens parliamentarian Sara Nanni posted on the social network Mastodon. "The fact is: no matter how crude their ideas are and how hopeless their plans, even the attempt is dangerous!"

The suspects were set to appear in court on Wednesday and Thursday. Eight of the accused are being held in pretrial detention, the prosecutor said.

Mekhennet reported from Washington and Bisset from London.

Peru's president is impeached, arrested after trying to dissolve its congress

Dina Boluarte sworn in as the nation's first female leader

BY SIMEON TEGEL AND DIANA DURÁN

LIMA, PERU — Pedro Castillo began Wednesday as the beleaguered but still lawful president of Peru. By the day's end, he was out of office and behind bars, ousted by furious legislators after he tried to dissolve the Congress of the Republic of Peru without the constitutional authority or the political support to succeed.

Castillo was arrested in Lima after lawmakers, including several erstwhile allies, voted overwhelmingly to remove him. Vice President Dina Boluarte was sworn as Peru's first female president.

Castillo's dramatic ouster — and the sight of him in custody — came as a relief to Peruvians ground down by the continuous fire hose of his corruption scandals, verbal gaffes and ineptitude. But in his 17 months in office, analysts say, he caused deep and lasting damage to this South American nation's economy and institutions.

The events Wednesday were the latest unexpected turn in a country buffeted by years of political chaos. Boluarte, 60, is the fifth president in a little more than two years; many of her recent predecessors have been accused or convicted of corruption.

After she was sworn in, the new president called for a "political truce" with and support in tackling the endemic graft that is undermining the country: "This cancer must be destroyed at the root."

The legislature had been scheduled to debate Castillo's removal on corruption charges Wednesday afternoon, and the president had said as recently as Tuesday that he would respect the process, amid widespread doubt over whether lawmakers could muster the two-thirds supermajority needed to remove him. They had tried to impeach him twice before and fallen short both times.

But after a slew of new revelations of the president's alleged graft — including accusations that he had offered $1 million to some lawmakers to save him — Castillo took to the airwaves Wednesday morning for an unscheduled national address.

The 53-year campesino, a leftist former rural schoolteacher and labor leader holding his first public office, said he was sending congress home and would rule by decree until new elections for a constituent assembly could be held, a process he said would occur within nine months.

"In line with the citizens' clamor throughout the country, we have made the decision to establish an emergency government oriented toward establishing rule of law and democracy," Castillo said. He also announced a 10 p.m. curfew in an apparent attempt to preempt protests.

The declaration was quickly and widely denounced as an attempted coup, a desperate bid to evade impeachment and criminal prosecution.

Castillo's ministers of justice, the economy, foreign relations, transportation and communication, labor and education resigned — as did his impeachment lawyer. "My democratic conviction is in the service of the defense of constitutional law," attorney Benji Espinoza tweeted.

Crucially, Peru's military leadership also rejected the move. The Joint Command of the Armed Forces described it as "contrary to the established constitutional order" and said it would be met with "nonacceptance by the Armed Forces and the Police."

Ed Malaga-Trillo, the independent lawmaker who initiated the latest impeachment attempt, compared the power grab to former president Donald Trump's call this month to suspend the U.S. Constitution and return him to the White House.

"Stupidity doesn't have an ideology," Malaga-Trillo told The Washington Post. "It doesn't belong exclusively to the left or the right. Castillo's address was completely disconnected from reality."

The U.S. Embassy in Lima also condemned the move. "The United States emphatically urges President Castillo to reverse his attempt to close the Congress and permit Peru's democratic institutions to function according to the constitution," the embassy said in a statement.

Within two hours of Castillo's declaration, Malaga-Trillo and his colleagues voted 101-6 to impeach Castillo for "moral incapacity" and declared the presidency vacant.

Castillo was eventually arrested near the presidential palace. Peruvian media showed photos and video of the former president looking bemused in custody at a police station.

Boluarte had distanced herself from Castillo in recent weeks, including refusing to serve as a minister in his cabinet.

"I reject Pedro Castillo's decision to break with the constitutional order by closing congress," she tweeted after his declaration. "This is a coup d'etat that deepens the political and institutional crisis, and Peruvian society will have to overcome the crisis strictly following the law."

In her inaugural address, Boluarte emphasized her humble background in a family that suffered economic "precariousness." She said she was "committed to fighting so that the nobodies, the excluded and the others can have the opportunities and access that have historically been denied them."

Castillo, who rose to national prominence leading a wildcat strike in 2017, ran for president last year sounding similar notes. Running with the Marxist-Leninist Free Peru party, he took advantage of voters' dissatisfaction with Peru's political establishment to win a surprise election victory over polarizing right-wing politician Keiko Fujimori. (She faces the prospect of a lengthy jail sentence in her own looming corruption trial.)

But Castillo's administration was marred by chaos, accusations of incompetence and allegations of self-dealing. Before his announcement Wednesday, he had a disapproval rating in the high 60s.

He is accused of taking bribes and selling jobs in the public bureaucracy. In October, prosecutors filed a 376-page criminal complaint against him based on the word of dozens of witnesses and an extensive evidentiary trail.

Castillo is the second Peruvian president impeached and removed from office in a little more than two years. Martín Vizcarra was ousted in November 2020 after clashing with lawmakers, ushering in a period in which the country had three presidents in fewer than 10 days.

Paula Tavara, a political scientist at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, said Castillo had left Peruvian democracy in tatters, and its citizens — especially the most vulnerable — "poorer and more defenseless."

Duran reported from Bogotá, Colombia.

China eases its covid testing and health-pass rules in wake of protests

BY CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD AND LYRIC LI

China announced on Wednesday that frequent coronavirus tests and digital health codes, two pillars of its "zero covid" policy, would no longer be required for daily life or to travel within the country — a significant relaxation of previously unyielding restrictions that were protested in more than a dozen cities across the country in recent weeks.

The State Council, China's cabinet, released a 10-point plan that also said those with less severe infections could quarantine at home rather than in centralized facilities, unless they "volunteer" to go into care. Apartment stairwells or floors would no longer be considered high-risk zones after five consecutive days without any new cases, and residents must be released from these zones in a timely fashion.

Digital health passes, region-specific apps that track movement and testing history, will no longer be required for access to most buildings or public transport. Developed by major Chinese technology firms on behalf of the government, the QR codes generated by the software have been a central part of China's extensive contact tracing.

They became so essential to getting around that people speak with terror of being "pop-upped" when a sudden notification switches your code from green to red, identifying you as an at-risk person.

Along with requirements to regularly visit PCR testing booths — at-home antigen rapid tests are not officially recognized or widely used — these apps were among the most prominent features of zero covid life in China. Some human rights activists have raised fears that they will forever remain in operation as part of China's expanding surveillance state.

The relaxation measures were an extension of a 20-step "optimization" plan released in early November aimed at reducing the economic and social costs of arbitrary and excessive restrictions, while at the same time continuing to stress that local officials should prioritize fighting the virus.

While many of the changes represent only a stepwise evolution, rather than a reversal, from the earlier announcement, they are among the clearest signs to date that the government is serious about dismantling its strictest controls and shifting to an approach some analysts labeled "zero covid in name only."

"The transition to living with the virus is likely to take time," research firm Capital Economics said in a note on Wednesday. "In the interim, some restrictions will still be needed, first to buy time to vaccinate more elderly, then subsequently to manage pressure on the healthcare system during China's reopening wave."

Even as the rest of the world has learned to live with the coronavirus, China has consistently pledged "unswerving" adherence to a policy of removing all cases from the general public and cutting off transmission as soon as possible. Confusion followed the announcement in early November as major cities first loosened — then rapidly reinstated — testing procedures.

That lack of clarity fueled public frustration after the arrival of more transmissible variants led local authorities to impose ever harsher lockdowns, the most dramatic of which was Shanghai's two month citywide stay-at-home order in the spring. Mounting discontent boiled over in late November when restrictions were blamed for deaths during an apartment complex fire in the far western city of Urumqi.

In protests that spread across college campuses and into the shopping and business districts of major Chinese cities, people's calls for an end to the zero covid regime rapidly evolved into broader demands for freedom of speech, human rights, and, in one instance, even for President Xi Jinping to step down.

It's unclear to what extent the protests informed the Chinese government's updated rules. Officials have barely acknowledged the widespread demonstrations, which were followed by a crackdown with heavy police presence on city streets as well as detentions and phone checks for participants. The earlier, 20-point easing announcement was made before protests erupted.

Liang Wannian, head of China's covid-19 expert adviser team, told a news conference Wednesday that the decision to update the policy was neither "reactive" nor equivalent to "totally giving up on prevention."

Point nine of Wednesday's plan, however, prohibited the blocking of firefighting passages or building doorways, a possible response to outcry over the deaths of seven adults and three children in the Urumqi blaze.

The document also underscored the need to accelerate vaccinations for those over 60 and to improve monitoring of at-risk populations with underlying conditions to ensure access to health care, in a bid to plug critical gaps in the country's pandemic defenses as it begins to accept wider circulation of the virus.

After months of continually stressing the severity of the virus, Chinese state media has in recent days published articles about patients with mild infections who make rapid and full recoveries. One headline cited an expert who declared that omicron symptoms are very similar to the flu, a sentiment that was repeatedly rejected by officials earlier in the year.

Even the official term for the policy of bring infections down to zero — which roughly translates as "dynamic clearing" — has begun to appear less frequently in official statements. It was not mentioned once in either Wednesday's announcement or the subsequent news conference.

Sun Chunlan, the vice premier who has led the coronavirus response, also omitted the term from an appearance last Wednesday where she declared a "new situation and new mission" underpinning the epidemic control strategy.

Even so, many aspects of the strategy remain intact. International travel restrictions, which were absent from the latest announcement, mean China continues to require eight days of quarantine for overseas arrivals and remains closed for tourism. Beijing city on Wednesday also launched a new digital health pass for antigen tests, which it said would be voluntary.

Li Bin, deputy director of the National Health Commission, told reporters on Wednesday that the winter months would make it harder to constrain the virus and prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed. "The covid pandemic is still not over," he said, and quoted a traditional Chinese saying favored by Xi to warn of the need for constant vigilance: "To be prepared for the unexpected is a basic principle of governing."

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

DOW 33,597.92 UP 1.58, 0.00% | NASDAQ 10,958.55 DOWN 56.34, 0.5% | S&P 500 3,933.92 DOWN 7.34, 0.2% | GOLD $1,798.00 UP $15.60, 0.9% | CRUDE OIL $72.01 DOWN $2.24, 3.0% | 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD 3.42% DOWN 3.2% | CURRENCIES $1=136.57 YEN, 0.95 EUROS



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple representatives said the threat of hackers and attempts to breach cloud providers made end-to-end encryption the best option for those most concerned about security.

Apple finally plans to fully protect iCloud backups

The company announces it will roll out end-to-end encryption of stored chat histories, photos and other sensitive user data

BY JOSEPH MENN

After years of delay under government pressure, Apple said Wednesday that it will offer fully encrypted backups of photos, chat histories and most other sensitive user data in its cloud storage system worldwide, putting them out of reach of most hackers, spies and law enforcement.

Apple has benefited for more than a decade from a perception that it does more than other phone and computer companies to safeguard privacy, including its use of end-to-end encryption for iMessages between Apple devices. Those can only be read on the devices, not by Apple, a phone service provider or police with a warrant.

But most iPhone and Mac computer owners back up their iMessages, photos and other content to Apple's iCloud, where the company can retrieve it for locked-out users or authorities. That has also left the material open to hackers who have tricked customers out of their passwords, increasing the potential for embarrassment and even extortion.

Apple representatives said those threats, and increasing attempts to breach cloud providers, made end-to-end encryption in the cloud the best option for those most concerned about security.

The step is likely to draw protests from multiple governments, some of which could take legislative or court action or deny Apple access to their markets. Top law enforcement officials in the United States, Britain and other democracies have railed against strong encryption, and some have passed laws they could use to try to force companies to cooperate against their customers.

Late Wednesday, the FBI said it was "deeply concerned with the threat end-to-end and user-only-access encryption pose."

"This hinders our ability to protect the American people from criminal acts ranging from cyberattacks and violence against children to drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism," the bureau said in an emailed statement. "In this age of cybersecurity and demands for 'security by design,' the FBI and law enforcement partners need 'lawful access by design.'"

The encryption option will be available for public software testers immediately, for all U.S. customers by year's end, and for other countries starting next year, Apple said. It added that it might not reach every country by the end of 2023.

Apple's move follows similar ones by other companies and organizations that have caught up to it on privacy or gone further.

Facebook's WhatsApp is the most-used fully encrypted messenger, and it began offering an encrypted backup a year ago. Signal, which develops the protocol used by WhatsApp and others, does not allow cloud backups to prevent improper access. Google offers encrypted backups, though it is unclear how popular the service is.

After hacks of cloud service providers, an increasing number of businesses are insisting on controlling decryption keys themselves. Apple will now provide that option to consumers as well.

Privacy experts were thrilled by Apple's announcement.

"This is great," said Meredith Whittaker, president of Signal, an encrypted chat app. "There's been enough pressure and enough narrative work that they see the side of history forming. It's really incredible."

The shift is likely to slow an especially effective law enforcement tool. In a six-month period covered in Apple's most recent transparency report, the company said it had turned over users' content for legal reasons 3,980 times, mostly in the United States and Brazil. It said legal requests for all types of account data, including just identifying information, had doubled in two years to more than 20,000.

In China, Apple has come under intensifying criticism for not doing more to protect iPhone users who are already heavily surveilled. During the recent wave of protests against harsh covid restrictions, Apple limited the use of AirDrop, which people were using to share videos and other large files at close range. The iCloud data in China is stored on servers under a local company's control.

Apple had intended to introduce fully encrypted iCloud storage many years ago, according to FBI agents and Apple employees at the time. The FBI objected, and Apple shelved the idea rather than face a public fight.

Instead, it picked specific categories of data that would be walled off from outside prying, including passwords and payment and health data. Now, everything can be stored securely except for email, calendar and contacts functions that need to interoperate with multiple providers.

Apple will require that users set up a recovery key or name another person who can help them get access in the event that they are locked out. That person, the account holder and Apple would all have to be involved in the recovery.

In a second victory for privacy advocates, Apple said it was dropping a plan to scan user photos for child sex abuse images. The company had paused that plan shortly after its announcement last year, as security experts argued that it would intrude on user's device privacy and be subject to abuse.

Apple also said Wednesday that it was making iPhones compatible with physical security keys that would connect to the phone so that consumers can require them for access to their accounts from new devices. That way, phishing attackers who steal passwords and user names would still be unable to get in.

2 women sue Apple, saying exes used AirTags to track them

Lawsuit claims company failed to make devices 'stalker-proof'

BY PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM

Lauren Hughes had just gotten back to her hotel in October 2021 when her phone showed an alert for an unknown Apple AirTag somewhere near her.

Hughes, who had moved to the hotel after her ex-boyfriend started stalking her, tried to get the AirTag to make sound so she could find it, but heard it only once, a court filing says. She said she found the AirTag in the wheel well of a tire on her car.

Discovering the tracking device, which had been colored with a marker and wrapped in plastic, left her feeling "terrified," according to the court record.

On Monday, Hughes and an unidentified woman filed a lawsuit against Apple, saying the company failed to make its AirTags "stalker-proof" despite concerns from domestic violence advocates when the technology was released last year. The lawsuit in the Northern District of California accuses Apple of negligence, design defects and privacy violations, among other allegations.

"Ms. Hughes continues to fear for her safety — at minimum, her stalker has evidenced a commitment to continuing to use AirTags to track, harass, and threaten her, and continues to use AirTags to find her location," the lawsuit says.

An Apple spokesperson declined to comment directly on the lawsuit, instead pointing to a February statement on "unwanted tracking" with AirTags, which the company said "we condemn in the strongest possible terms." Apple now has information on what to do when alerted of an AirTag, including tapping the notification to listen for the device's sound and locate it.

Since the AirTags were introduced in April 2021 with the intention of making it easier for people to locate belongings such as wallets and luggage, critics have pointed out that the Bluetooth-enabled devices could be used by predators.

Even with those warnings, the lawsuit says, Apple "heedlessly forged ahead, dismissing concerns" before and after the technology's release.

The two plaintiffs are both victims of stalking and are suing on behalf of themselves and others "who have been and who are at risk of stalking via this dangerous product," according to the complaint.

Hughes, who lives in Travis County, Tex., said in the lawsuit that her ex-boyfriend began stalking her in August 2021 following their breakup. The complaint alleges that her ex made fake accounts to follow her on social media, posted their text conversations online and left her threatening voice mails.

He also left a package at Hughes's apartment with photos of her, the lawsuit alleges. With the package came a handwritten note with Hughes's first name at the top and ending with: "Be well. This is goodbye," according to photos included in the lawsuit.

By October of last year, Hughes decided to live at a hotel until she could move to a new home, according to the lawsuit. After Hughes found the AirTag on her car, the lawsuit says Apple Store employees she consulted told her they "could not tell" how long the device had been there.

The second plaintiff in the case, a woman identified as "Jane Doe" of Kings County, N.Y., said she, too, had been tracked by an ex using an AirTag. Doe said that after a "contentious divorce," her former spouse began questioning where she went with their child and when, according to the lawsuit.

She found an AirTag in the child's backpack this summer and tried to get rid of it, the complaint says, but she soon found another in the same bag. The woman was unable to confirm whether her former spouse had placed the devices there but said in the lawsuit that she fears for her safety regardless.

The lawsuit is seeking damages for the two plaintiffs and others like them, as well as an order to prevent Apple from "further unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent practices with respect to the design, manufacture, and release into the market of its AirTags."

E-cigarette maker Juul settles over 5,000 suits

Resolutions follow years of wrangling, come amid youth vaping concerns

BY KELSEY ABLES

Juul Labs, the e-cigarette manufacturer, announced on Tuesday that it has reached settlements covering more than 5,000 cases with nearly 10,000 plaintiffs. The sweeping resolutions, which litigators say will address youth e-cigarette usage, come after more than three years of legal battles.

The settlements include compensation for those suffering from nicotine addiction and other health problems as well as reimbursement for those who purchased Juul products. School districts, cities, counties and Native American tribes will also receive resources to fight nicotine addiction among youths. Juul did not disclose the settlement amount.

Sarah R. London, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in the federal multidistrict litigation, expressed hope for the potential impact of the resolutions. "These settlements will put meaningful compensation in [the] hands of victims and their families, get real funds to schools for abatement programs, and help government and tribal entities prevent youth use of e-cigarettes across the U.S.," she said in a written statement.

But Robert Jackler, a Stanford medical school professor who researches the impact of tobacco advertising and served as an expert witness in the proceedings, was less optimistic.

"Time and again, tobacco companies absorb sizable legal settlements as a cost of doing business, only [to] reemerge as highly profitable purveyors [of] nicotine products, which they market to youth," he said in an email. If Juul survives the financial and reputational blow, "it will escape full accountability for its reprehensive corporate behavior," he said.

The settlements are the latest development in a spate of legal feuds and public controversies afflicting the once-thriving company. Partially owned by tobacco giant Altria, Juul has come under fire for marketing to minors, fueling an increase in youth vaping and misrepresenting its products as a safe alternative to conventional cigarettes.

While e-cigarettes have not existed long enough to determine their long-term consequences, they have been linked to nicotine addiction, lung damage, asthma and mental health problems.

Earlier this year, Juul products were temporarily banned by the Food and Drug Administration, which cited insufficient data on their health and safety. (The ban was later put on hold.) In September, Juul agreed to pay $438.5 million to settle a lawsuit brought by 33 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, which alleged that the company targeted youths and whitewashed the risks of using its products.

Last month, the company announced it would lay off hundreds of employees, cut its operating budget by 30 to 40 percent and stave off bankruptcy, having secured investor financing.

Juul debuted its e-cigarette — a sleek, handheld electronic device used to inhale nicotine mixed with flavoring — in 2015. Originally sold as an innocuous, even fun alternative to traditional tobacco products, the device quickly became popular among youths. The devices remain prevalent in 2022; a study released in October found that 2.5 million adolescents use e-cigarettes.

DIGEST

INVESTMENT

Texas Senate panel subpoenas BlackRock

A Texas Senate committee has issued BlackRock a subpoena requesting documents related to the giant money manager's environmental, social and governance practices and for its executives to testify.

The Committee on State Affairs asked BlackRock last month to produce documents that will help legislators discuss what effects ESG policies may have on Texans' retirement savings, according to a statement Wednesday. The panel also sent a request for at least one of six BlackRock executives, including chief executive Larry Fink, to attend a Dec. 15 hearing.

The subpoena is the latest salvo in a spat between GOP states and Wall Street's biggest asset managers over their support of sustainable investing. Last week, Florida said it would pull about $2 billion from BlackRock, making it the sixth state to divest from the firm. And in Texas, BlackRock is at risk of losing out on business after it was put on the state's divestment list for allegedly "boycotting" the oil and gas industry.

— Bloomberg News

HOUSING

Mortgage rates fall for 4th straight week

U.S. mortgage rates fell for a fourth week in a row, the longest such stretch of declines since May 2019. The contract rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage eased eight basis points to 6.41 percent in the week ended Friday, still the lowest since mid-September, according to Mortgage Bankers Association data released Wednesday.

Rates have retreated for the past month as the Federal Reserve has signaled it will soon slow down the pace of interest-rate hikes, probably at next week's policy meeting. Even so, MBA's mortgage purchase index fell 3 percent, the first drop in five weeks, underscoring how demand remains fickle and driving a decline in the overall measure of mortgage applications.

The MBA survey, which has been conducted weekly since 1990, uses responses from mortgage bankers, commercial banks and thrifts. The data cover more than 75 percent of all retail residential mortgage applications in the United States.

— Bloomberg News

THE MARKETS

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Data and graphics by Bloomberg

DOW JONES

Close
33,597.92

1D % Change
0.0%

YTD % Change
-7.5%



NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX

Close
10,958.55

1D % Change
-0.5%

YTD % Change
-30.0%



STANDARD & POOR'S

Close
3,933.92

1D % Change
-0.2%

YTD % Change
-17.5%



Dow Jones 30 Industrials

Company	Close	1D % Chg	Chg % YTD	Company	Close	1D % Chg	Chg % YTD
3M Co	126.35	1.4	-28.9	J&J	177.17	0.6	3.6
AmerExpCo	154.77	0.0	-5.4	JPMorgan	131.50	-0.1	-17.0
Amgen Inc	285.76	0.9	27.0	McDonald's	270.34	-0.5	0.8
Apple Inc	140.94	-1.4	-20.6	Merck & Co	110.09	1.1	43.6
Boeing	176.50	-1.1	-12.3	Microsoft	244.37	-0.3	-27.2
Caterpillr	228.98	0.3	10.8	NIKE Inc	108.33	0.4	-35.0
Chevron	172.52	0.3	47.0	Prcter& Gmbl	150.24	0.6	-8.2
Cisco Sys	48.18	-0.8	-24.0	Salesforce	130.48	-2.1	-48.7
Coca-Cola	63.54	0.2	7.3	Travelers Cos I	188.05	-0.2	20.2
Dow Inc	50.70	-0.7	-10.6	UntdHlthGr	542.91	0.7	8.1
Gldman Schs	359.92	-0.8	-5.9	Verzn Comm	37.17	0.8	-28.5
Hnywll Int	213.45	0.1	2.4	Visa Inc	207.81	-0.6	-4.1
Home Depot	320.15	0.9	-22.9	Walgreens	40.65	0.1	-22.1
IBM	147.27	-0.2	10.2	Walmart	149.11	-0.5	3.1
Intel Corp	28.33	-0.9	-44.9	Walt Disney	92.15	-0.2	-40.5

COMMODITIES

Futures	Close	1D % Chg	Futures	Close	1D % Chg
Copper	3.86	1.1	Silver	22.92	2.6
Crude Oil	72.01	-3.0	Sugar	19.48	0.5
Gold	1798.00	0.9	Soybean	14.72	1.2
Natural Gas	5.72	4.6	Wheat	7.50	2.8
Orange Juice	2.19	4.8	Corn	6.41	0.6

$1000 invested over 1 Year | $1000 invested over 1 Month

Exchange-Traded (Ticker)	1D % Chg
Coffee (COFF.L)	-2.7
Copper (COPA.L)	0.0
Corn (CORN.L)	-0.4
Cotton (COTN.L)	-2.3
Crude Oil (CRUD.L)	-2.1
Gasoline (UGAS.L)	-2.4
Gold (BULL.L)	0.2
Natural Gas (NGAS.L)	0.7
Silver (SLVR.L)	1.2

Scale: $679 – $1360

RATES

Bank Prime
7.00%

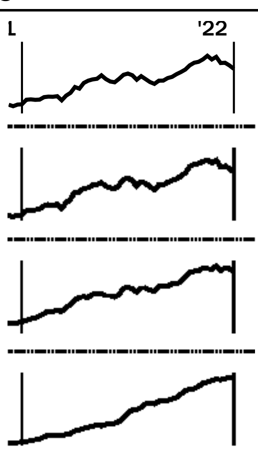
30-Yr Fixed mtge
6.66%

Federal Funds
4.00%

15-Yr Fixed mtge
6.00%

LIBOR 3-Month
4.73%

1-Yr ARM
5.37%



10-yr note Yield: **3.42%**

5-yr note Yield: **3.63%**

2-yr note Yield: **4.26%**

6-month bill Yield: **4.67%**

Consumer Rates

Money Market Natl 0.32	5Yr CD Natl 2.65
6Mo CD Natl 1.68	New Car Loan Natl 6.45
1Yr CD Natl 2.22	Home Equity Loan Natl 8.62

Currency Exchange

EU €	Japan ¥	Britain £	Brazil R$	Canada $	Mexico $
0.95	136.57	0.82	5.22	1.37	19.67

INTERNATIONAL STOCK MARKETS

Markets	Close	Daily % Chg	YTD % Chg scale
Americas			-5.9% / +5.9%
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	109068.55	-1.0	
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX	19973.22	-0.1	
S&P/BMV IPC	50725.96	-0.6	
Europe			-10.6% / +10.6%
STXE 600 (EUR) Pr	436.20	-0.6	
CAC 40 INDEX	6660.59	-0.4	
DAX INDEX	14261.19	-0.6	
FTSE 100 INDEX	7489.19	-0.4	
Asia Pacific			-19.9% / +19.9%
S&P/ASX 200 INDEX	7229.39	-0.8	
CSI 300 INDEX	3958.44	-0.2	
HANG SENG INDEX	18814.82	-3.2	
NIKKEI 225	27686.40	-0.7	

S&P 500 Industry Group Snapshot

Industry Group	Daily % Chg
Household Durables	2.1
Food Products	1.6
Biotechnology	1.2
Life Sciences	1.0
Water Utilities	1.0
Airlines	-4.5
Automobiles	-2.8
Energy Equipment & Svcs	-2.3
Personal Products	-1.9
Computers & Peripherals	-1.4

Chg % 1Yr scale: -48.4% – +48.4%

Gainers and Losers from the S&P 1500 Index

Company	Close	1D % Chg	Company	Close	1D % Chg
Acadmy Sprts & Otdrs	56.87	15.4	EZCORP Inc	8.64	-18.2
State Street Corp	80.45	8.2	Ollie'sBargainOutlet	47.66	-17.5
Toll Brothers Inc	49.50	7.7	United Natural Foods	38.84	-14.8
Casey'sGeneralStores	246.95	7.4	Uniti Group Inc	6.08	-13.8
Powell Industries	34.40	6.4	Conn's Inc	7.87	-13.5
Signet Jewelers Ltd	73.78	6.1	Avid Bioservices Inc	13.04	-12.4
Campbell Soup Co	56.18	6.0	Kelly Services Inc	15.29	-10.6
ModivCare Inc	91.21	5.4	Gannett Co Inc	2.51	-9.4
Builders FirstSource	65.47	5.3	Unisys Corp	4.07	-9.2
Genesco Inc	45.93	5.0	Equitrans Midstream	7.28	-8.2
Taylor Morrison Home	30.39	4.6	Green Plains Inc	29.26	-8.0
Green Brick Partners	24.37	4.5	M&T Bank Corp	147.97	-7.7
Comty Health Systems	3.51	4.5	EW Scripps Co/The	13.91	-7.6
B Riley Financial	43.77	4.4	Dave & Buster's Ent	33.51	-7.4
Louisiana-Pacific	65.42	4.1	Brown-Forman Corp	68.27	-7.3
Bank of NY Mellon	44.61	4.1	CoreCivic Inc	11.96	-6.9
SolarEdge Tech	310.79	4.0	Amer Axle & Mfg	9.27	-6.6
SVB Financial Group	208.28	4.0	TripAdvisor Inc	17.80	-6.4
Murphy USA Inc	296.20	3.8	Expedia Group Inc	90.79	-6.3
iTeos Therapeutics	19.82	3.7	Clearfield Inc	103.51	-6.2

Data and graphics by: Bloomberg

Note: Bank prime is from 10 major banks. Federal Funds rate is the market rate, which can vary from the federal target rate. LIBOR is the London Interbank Offered Rate. Consumer rates are from Bankrate. All figures as of 4:30 p.m. New York time.

Loudoun ousts schools superintendent after report on sexual assault handling



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

The grand jury report concluded that Scott Ziegler lied about his knowledge of a May 2021 assault during a school board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT FROM A1

defunct, and messages and a phone call to a business listed in his name went unreturned. Late Wednesday, school officials announced that they plan to appoint Daniel Smith, the current chief of staff, as interim superintendent at an emergency meeting scheduled for Thursday.

Ziegler and school officials have faced intense criticism from parents for their response to the sexual assaults, which took place in May and October of 2021. In particular, officials have been maligned for their decision to transfer the student assailant from one high school, where he assaulted a student in a girls' bathroom, to another high school, where he assaulted another student in a classroom.

The controversy in Loudoun erupted onto the national scene in the fall of 2021 after Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) repeatedly condemned the school district in his gubernatorial campaign. The assaults also became entangled in a broader, highly contentious debate over the rights of transgender students at school.

The student assailant was wearing women's clothing during the first assault, which initially began as a consensual encounter in a bathroom. That May assault came a few months before the Loudoun system adopted a policy allowing transgender students to use bathrooms that match their gender identities. The policy was not in effect at the time of the assault, and there is no evidence to suggest the male student is transgender. Nonetheless, some — especially conservative activists, parents and politicians — have pointed to the Loudoun assaults as an argument against letting transgender students use bathrooms that match their gender identities, a contention that has drawn rebukes from LGBTQ rights advocates.

Byard said he did not know whether the Loudoun board intended to fire any other staffers. He said he also did not know what steps the board would take to respond to the grand jury report. The report is slated for discussion at the board's next public meeting, scheduled for Tuesday.

"Right now, the only concrete action I know the board has taken is to terminate the superintendent's contract," Byard said. Asked about the superintendent's payout, he said, "I have not seen the package yet."

As superintendent, Ziegler earned $325,000 a year following a $30,000 raise in June. For suffering "termination without cause," Ziegler should receive a severance package totaling 12 months' salary, paid out in monthly installments, according to a copy of his employment contract obtained by The Washington Post. Byard confirmed Wednesday that Ziegler was terminated without cause but declined to confirm details of the former superintendent's severance package, noting that the school system has not yet released that information.

The grand jury report had concluded that Ziegler was informed about the May assault on the day it happened but that he later lied about his knowledge of the event during a board meeting the following month. When asked by a board member whether Loudoun had records of "assaults in our bathrooms or in our locker rooms regularly," Ziegler replied with a falsehood, the report states.

Ziegler said, "To my knowledge we don't have any record of assaults occurring in our restrooms." A witness told the grand jury that this statement was a "baldfaced lie."

Ziegler has said he misunderstood the question at the meeting. He said he believed the board member was asking whether the school had records of sexual assaults committed in bathrooms by transgender or gender-fluid students.

The grand jury concluded in its 91-page report that Loudoun administrators badly mismanaged the sexual assaults due to their incompetence and general "lack of interest" in the events. But the grand jury also found that there had been no "coordinated coverup" of the assaults between Loudoun school officials and the school board, as some, including Virginia Attorney General Jason S. Miyares, had alleged. Rather, the school board had been mostly kept in the dark about the assaults, the grand jury found.

Ziegler served as Loudoun's interim superintendent for roughly six months before being named to the permanent position in June 2021. A former special-education and social studies teacher, he began working for the Loudoun school system in 2019 as an assistant superintendent for human resources and talent development. He oversaw the district's transition from online-only learning during the pandemic to four days a week of in-person instruction for about 40 percent of its 80,000 students, garnering praise for his leadership from Board Chair Brenda Sheridan (Sterling).

But not long into Ziegler's tenure, he was facing unfavorable attention from Youngkin, who regularly points to Loudoun as an example of a school district where officials are refusing to listen to parents to promote a liberal agenda. One of Youngkin's first actions in office was ordering the grand jury investigation into the district. And this spring, Youngkin unsuccessfully attempted to force all nine members of the school board to seek reelection in November — a measure that would have shortened the terms of service for most of them.

Youngkin posted a tweet Wednesday linking to a news story of Ziegler's firing. A spokeswoman for the governor declined to comment beyond the tweet.

"The special grand jury's report on the horrific sexual assaults in Loudoun has exposed wrongdoing, prompted disciplinary actions, & provided families with the truth," Youngkin wrote. "I will continue to empower parents & push for accountability on behalf of our students."

Loudoun parents and elected officials across the political spectrum also shared support for Ziegler's firing Tuesday and Wednesday. Many had previously called for his removal, along with that of other school leaders.

"I fully support the School Board's decision to fire the Superintendent in light of the recent grand jury report. I hope this is the first in efforts across agencies to review and revise policies, including cross-agency communication," Loudoun County Supervisor Juli Briskman tweeted Tuesday night.

Ian Prior, a Loudoun parent, former Trump administration official and founder of the conservative parents' rights group Fight for Schools, wrote in a text Wednesday that he is feeling "pleased."

"Superintendent Ziegler will no longer be in the position to put children at risk due to his utterly reckless conduct," Prior wrote. "However, he was not the only bad actor identified in the special grand jury report and we will continue to demand the full leadership and culture changes that the special grand jury recommended."

Loudoun4All, a left-leaning parent group that advocates for social justice and racial equity in the school system, released a statement praising Ziegler's firing and calling for the resignation of Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman, whom the grand jury criticized in their report for not communicating well with the school system about the assaults.

"Loudoun4All believes that while the School Board firing Dr. Ziegler was an important step toward accountability for the failures revealed in the Grand Jury report, it cannot be the only step," the parent group wrote in its statement. "For his failure to take the initial charges of assault until he was forced to by the public outcry, for his failure to cooperate with LCPS, and for his refusal to provide the charges to LCPS, Loudoun4All feels that Sheriff Chapman also needs to resign."

Chapman did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

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THURSDAY OPINION

E.J. DIONNE JR.

With Walker's help, Warnock becomes a national voice

Sen. Raphael G. Warnock's reelection is a rebuke to the idea that partisanship overwhelms personal character, another blow to Donald Trump's domination of the Republican Party and a warning to the GOP that moderate suburban voters will continue to resist flawed candidates and right-wing extremism.

It is also a tribute to Warnock himself. A pastor at the Atlanta church once served by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Warnock has long been theologically preoccupied with balancing political activism on behalf of racial justice with the calling to personal piety. As a politician, he has proved adept at balancing broadly progressive political goals with a moderate, unifying demeanor and a relentless focus on issues central to Georgia's voters.

His victory in a contest many thought a year ago would be unwinnable for a Democrat will transform him into a major voice in his party, which hopes to make more inroads in the Deep South by mobilizing a multiracial political coalition of the sort that sent Warnock back to Washington.

The highly publicized personal flaws of Warnock's opponent, former University of Georgia football star and National Football League veteran Herschel Walker, were certainly decisive. Trump effectively imposed Walker on the Georgia GOP, a fact that surely will deepen the rage many Republicans already feel toward the former president for foisting weak candidates on the party elsewhere. Republicans swept every major statewide office this year in Georgia — except the Senate seat.

With tens of millions of dollars in advertising, Warnock's campaign made it as hard as possible for Republican voters to ignore either the many deficiencies of Walker's personal life or his inability to communicate a coherent purpose.

Walker still managed to secure roughly 48.6 percent of the runoff vote, underscoring the ongoing power of partisanship. But in November, some 200,000 voters who supported Republican Gov. Brian Kemp either backed Warnock outright or refused to vote for Walker. In the lower-turnout runoff, the gap between Walker's vote total and Kemp's was even larger. For such Republicans, even in a highly polarized moment, Walker's candidacy ratified the truth of John F. Kennedy's observation that "sometimes party loyalty asks too much."

Even so, the partisan implications of Warnock's triumph are significant. His reelection gives Senate Democrats breathing room they did not enjoy over the past two years in a 50-50 Senate.

Republican control of the House will limit what the party can accomplish legislatively in the final years of President Biden's term. But by winning the party a 51st seat, Warnock will give Democrats an outright majority on Senate committees that are split evenly in the current Congress. This will speed the confirmation of judges and ease the way for midterm personnel changes in the Biden administration. Getting Biden's appointees through Senate committees will be much easier.

Democrats will also be able to issue committee subpoenas without Republican support, creating a useful counter-force to a Republican House intent on launching a large number of highly partisan investigations. The Senate, if it wished, could also pick up on investigations begun by Democrats in the House over the past two years.

And after two years during which a single Democratic senator could upend the party's plans, an extra vote will create a different dynamic. Swing Democratic senators, notably Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, will remain important (especially when they agree), but their individual influence will be reduced. We will see fewer "President Manchin" stories.

Although the role of Walker's shortcomings cannot be underestimated, the ability of Democrats to prevail again in a Georgia runoff speaks both to demographic change in the state and exceptional organizing work by the party and civil rights groups over the past decade.

Historically, Republicans have outvoted Democrats in the state's runoff elections. That pattern was broken two years ago when Warnock and Democrat Jon Ossoff prevailed in an unusual contest in which both seats reached the runoff ballot.

Former state representative Stacey Abrams was defeated in her second try for Georgia's governorship last month, but the impact of her dedication to grass-roots mobilization was felt again. Democrats turned out a huge early vote for Warnock in the face of new restrictions on voting access enacted by the Republican-led legislature and signed by Kemp.

That Warnock won after a campaign during which he crisscrossed the state reminding his supporters of the urgency of voting seemed appropriate for a man who has used his eloquence again and again on behalf of equal access to the ballot.

In his victory speech Tuesday night, he referred to voting as a "kind of prayer for the world we desire."

On the Senate floor last year, he argued that "voting rights are preservative of all other rights" and reminded his colleagues of the long struggle for democratic equality. "Too many people died. Too much blood was shed. Too many sacrifices made. Too much is at stake."

Thanks to that struggle — and with help from Republicans who could not abide their party's standard-bearer — Warnock will have six more years to press that case.

DAVID VON DREHLE

The tragedy of Herschel Walker

Herschel Walker could be basking in his former glory, his many offenses against women, children, honesty and the English language neatly masked by the invisibility cloak of celebrity. He is, after all, a walking personification of University of Georgia football, and Georgia is flying high: undefeated and ranked No. 1. Every great season stirs memories of past triumphs, and Walker is — or was, anyway — triumph personified.

In three seasons before turning pro after his junior year, the powerful running back scored 52 touchdowns, rushed for more than 5,000 yards and won 33 games against just three losses. He won the 1982 Heisman Trophy by a mile over a Stanford University quarterback named John Elway. Walker was the marquee player of the short-lived U.S. Football League, then entered the National Football League, where he racked up 61 touchdowns.

Perhaps, to borrow a phrase, he got tired of winning, because today he is known for his humiliating campaign for U.S. Senate from Georgia. The debacle — which featured allegations of his abandoned children, terrorized mates, brandished firearms, fictionalized achievements and secret funding of girlfriends' abortions — ended on Tuesday with Walker's opponent, Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D), reelected in a runoff.



BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Republican Senate candidate Herschel Walker at a campaign event in McDonough, Ga., on Nov. 16.

It's one thing for a deeply flawed person to accept admiration for his former athletic magnificence, but it's quite another for him to seek a role in leading the country. The dirty laundry that Walker kept stuffed into the vault behind his trophy case was hauled into the glare of television lights and packaged into millions of dollars of negative advertising. One of Walker's sons summed up his famous father this way: He "left us to bang a bunch of women, threatened to kill us, and had us move over 6 times in 6 months" to escape the mayhem of his own making.

No tackler could trip him up but, on the campaign trail, Walker struggled to break free of the grip of simple sentences. In the last days of the race, Warnock bought TV time to play Walker's most baffling statements over and over. It is a bad sign in politics when your opponent starts paying to broadcast your words.

Georgia's Republican lieutenant governor was pithy in assessing Walker's political career: "one of the worst candidates in our party's history."

What compels a person to shower in gasoline and light up a cigar? In Walker's case, it is a familiar story. He came into the orbit of that serial destroyer of other people's reputations, Donald Trump.

The two men bonded after Trump acquired the New Jersey Generals of the USFL in 1983. Walker was the Generals' superstar; luring him away from college the previous year had been a coup for the upstart league. Trump believed that Walker's on-field prowess could help him force a merger with the established NFL.

Instead, like many of Trump's enterprises, the league went bust. The mogul and his athletic marvel split on friendly terms after the 1985 season, the USFL's last, during which Walker gained an incredible 2,411 yards. Despite going their separate ways — Walker to the NFL, Trump to the money pit of Atlantic City — they remained friendly. And we all know what becomes of Trump's friends.

Consider Michael Cohen, the longtime personal lawyer who ended up in prison. Allen Weisselberg, the Trump Organization financial officer who pleaded guilty to tax fraud. Former Man of the Year Rudy Giuliani, who stood with what looked like hair dye running down his cheeks as he spread the stolen-election nonsense that cost him his license to practice law in New York.

And so on.

By encouraging Walker to run for the Senate and endorsing him in the Republican primary, Trump reminded the world of his contempt for American government and American ideals. One hot mess is as good as the next when it comes to burning down the GOP and replacing it with a cult of Trump. As usual, voters disagreed and rejected Walker — just as they rejected Trump's unready candidates in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona in November.

A true friend would have told Walker: Keep your head down and stay out of politics. People love you as a football icon, but running for office is a whole new ballgame. It doesn't matter how fast you are; you can't outrun opposition research. You have no blockers to protect you from yourself.

PERRY BACON JR.

For Democrats, values-based politics are winning politics

The election results from 2018, 2020 and this year, including Tuesday's reelection of Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D-Ga.), have clearly shown that Democrats can win by casting Republicans as a party of bigotry, intolerance and radicalism. They should embrace that approach — and give up on strategies that Democrats wish would work but don't.

It's hard to come up with a word that captures these views perfectly, but Democrats are now a coalition of the woke, the anti-racists and the tolerant.

"It's been evident since at least 2017 that the largest force in American politics isn't any economic coalition but a broad popular front in defense of liberal values like tolerance, democracy and cultural pluralism," said Will Stancil, a policy researcher at the University of Minnesota who has written about how the increasing racial diversity of the suburbs benefits Democrats. "Rather than standing for any particular policy platform, this majority stands against Trump-driven reactionary politics."

Yet many prominent Democrats remain deeply attached to two campaign approaches that haven't been very successful. First, there is the idea of building a coalition across racial, geographic, religious and cultural lines that connects Americans based on their status as workers and on economic issues such as raising the minimum wage. That is what many left-wing groups and politicians have been trying to do, most notably Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

But there is little evidence of a collective "working person" sentiment in today's America — or that one can be created, at least in the short term. Sanders couldn't even build a cross-racial, urban-rural working-class coalition in the Democratic presidential primary, never mind the broader electorate. He lost among such voters to the decidedly less-populist Joe Biden in numerous primaries in 2020.

A second strategy is creating a broad coalition that supports centrist policies. This is generally where outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and President Biden have steered the party — taking positions on most issues where a clear majority of the public agrees with Democrats. So that means supporting infrastructure spending and universal prekindergarten while opposing the "defund the police" slogan. The theory is that if you are taking policy positions on every issue that 60 percent or more of Americans agree on, you'll get an outsize share of the vote.

But Americans don't vote based only on which party is closest to their stances on most issues; they also vote based on partisanship, their social circles and many other non-policy concerns. So, even as Republicans have embraced stringent abortion restrictions and other deeply unpopular positions, they still get close to 50 percent of the votes in most national elections — and won the popular vote this past cycle.

I am not arguing Democrats give up on White voters without degrees or those in rural areas. I am arguing the party might be overly fixated on those voters and ignoring other potential swing blocs.

There's a third strategy staring Democrats right in the face. It's what has worked the past three cycles, whenever they've been willing to lean into it: Affirmatively run as the pro-tolerance, anti-Trumpism party — as some Democrats did, including Biden, right before the election. That approach galvanizes the Democratic Party base and wins over people who voted Republican in the past but are turned off by today's version of the party.

"*Dobbs*, the Jan. 6 hearings, the Biden democracy speech, and other elements coalesced to convince enough Americans that the GOP was the party of extremists. And our smartest candidates capitalized on that and won," said Tom Bonier, who runs a political data firm called TargetSmart that works with Democratic candidates and groups.

Michael Podhorzer, the former political director of the AFL-CIO, said, "In those states where the threats from Trumpism/MAGA were salient, especially Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, normal midterm expectations were shattered."

Over the past six years, Democrats have gained a lot of ground among people living in the suburbs, those who are White and have college degrees, and among a segment of former Republicans opposed to Donald Trump and his brand of politics.

These voters are not unified by their working conditions. Nor is there much evidence that they are particularly invested in infrastructure, police spending or other centrist policies.

What appears to unify the voting blocs moving to Democrats is an aversion to Trump-style Republicanism. And there are potentially a lot more voters who could be reached with this approach — particularly voters of color, people under 45, those who live in urban and suburban areas, college graduates, and women. Democrats are already winning these blocs but are nowhere near 100 percent among any of them and could still make substantial gains.

The people currently voting Republican in these blocs (or not voting) probably aren't in social circles dominated by Fox News-watching, evangelical church-attending conservatives who might shun them if they voted Democratic. For people in these blocs, the notion that today's Republican Party is just too radical for their support is probably something they are already hearing from their friends. They are likely uncomfortable with some of the crazy things that Republican election officials say and do, particularly on racial and LGBTQ issues.

"The suburbs where you have upwardly mobile, college-educated White voters, those are where the opportunities are. Not the sacred cow of White working-class voters," said Cornell Belcher, a Democratic pollster.

A drumbeat about the terribleness of the Republican Party, particularly on issues around race and identity, is likely to keep many voters from backing the GOP. Instead of droning on about infrastructure, Democrats can spend the next two years declaring bluntly that a vote for any Republican candidate, no matter how moderate, is still a vote for a party that bans abortions, treats transgender Americans as second-class citizens, makes it harder for Black people and those in urban areas to vote, dumps undocumented immigrants off in left-leaning areas without any consideration of their well-being, bans the works of Black and LGBTQ authors from public schools, and questions election results — particularly those from heavily Black areas — when they lose.

"We need to keep leaning, 100 percent, into the attacks on freedoms, the attacks on democracy. That is a strategy that works," said Jenifer Fernandez Ancona, vice president of the left-leaning group Way to Win.

I'm not suggesting that every Biden speech for the next two years should begin with a long diatribe about the terribleness of Republican officials. I am suggesting a few more of those diatribes. I am not arguing Democrats give up on White voters without degrees or those in rural areas. I am arguing the party might be overly fixated on those voters and ignoring other potential swing blocs.

Most important, Democrats must accept that in today's America, "politics" for most people is whatever Trump said or whom he met with that week, not the inflation rate or the minimum wage. I'm sure that centrist and swing voters *say* in polls and focus groups that they want politicians to talk about health care and jobs and be positive. But people's actions are a stronger indication of their real beliefs and values. In 2018, with Trump constantly in the news, more Americans voted in the midterms than they had in decades. There was then even bigger turnout in the presidential election in 2020. This year, after the Supreme Court overturned *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization,* eliminating the right to abortion, there was a huge shift in voter registration — with women suddenly becoming much more likely to register than men.

What is actually galvanizing people is anger, not positivity — and issues such as separating children from their families at the border and banning abortions, not "kitchen table" concerns.

The image I suspect Biden, Pelosi and Sanders have of a voter who could swing from Democrat to Republican or the other way is a 50-year-old White man without a college degree who lives in suburban Philadelphia, works as a fireman and supports raising the minimum wage but opposes late-term abortions.

Sure, that's one kind of swing voter. But the kinds of people who have been swinging to Democrats are White women who have office jobs and college degrees and strongly support abortion rights. And the kinds of people who could swing to Democrats are people who already have decent jobs and don't really like all of the spending that the Biden administration is doing to boost the economy but hate intolerance and bigotry even more.

As long as Trumpism dominates the Republican Party, woke politics are winning politics.

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Herschel Walker waits to take the stage at a Nov. 6 rally in Hiram, Ga.

Looking toward 2024, Georgia is on DNC's mind

Runoff results show why the Peach State should be an early primary locale.

The reelection of Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D-Ga.) in Tuesday's runoff testifies to the discernment of Georgia voters and offers a refreshing reminder that character still counts. Republicans won every other Georgia statewide race last month, but about 200,000 citizens who voted for Gov. Brian Kemp (R) refused to support GOP Senate nominee Herschel Walker. Most Georgians, especially his fellow Black Americans, were embarrassed by the former football star's ignorance and incoherence on the issues, disturbing allegations of hypocrisy on abortion and a history of domestic violence accusations.

Former president Donald Trump saddled Republicans with this nominee, despite widespread warnings that Mr. Walker was unelectable. Mr. Trump deserves as much blame as anyone for his party's failure to win back the Senate. Historical trends and the national environment should have made it easier.

The runoff results add to the evidence that the Peach State has turned purple. In 2020, Mr. Trump became the first Republican presidential nominee to lose Georgia in 28 years. His dishonest denial of that defeat led to the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021. Less remembered is that Mr. Trump's campaign to cast doubt on the integrity of the election also depressed Republican turnout in Georgia's runoffs the day before — costing the party two Senate seats and control of the chamber.

Tellingly, Mr. Walker didn't campaign with Mr. Trump during the general election or runoff. Mr. Walker's advisers concluded, correctly, that a visit by the former president would motivate Democrats more than Republicans. It would have also made it harder to woo college-educated suburban voters who backed Mr. Kemp last month but not Mr. Walker.

People in both parties rewarded Mr. Kemp and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger (R) for resisting presidential pressure to "find" votes that didn't exist. Both defeated Trump-backed primary challengers in May and secured second terms in November. And turnout remained high despite hyperbolic warnings by President Biden and other Democrats that updated voting rules amounted to Jim Crow 2.0.

Georgia, with 11 million residents and 16 electoral votes, is becoming in American politics what Ohio and Florida used to be: a genuinely competitive battleground. The state is more reflective of the United States than Iowa, which through poorly administered caucuses squandered any claim to its role as the starting gate of the quadrennial nominating process. This is why we applaud the Democratic National Committee's move last week to make Georgia an early primary state, following South Carolina, Nevada and New Hampshire.

Mr. Raffensperger is pouring cold water on this proposal. His office wants Republicans and Democrats to vote on the same day. The Republican National Committee has no plans to adjust its nominating calendar or change its rules for 2024, which means that Georgia could be stripped of GOP delegates if it skips the line to vote before Super Tuesday.

It's understandable that Mr. Raffensperger doesn't want Republicans in his state to hold less sway over picking the party's nominee. But we predict the outcome would be the opposite. If Georgia schedules early presidential primaries, candidates in both parties would almost certainly invest time and resources there, even if fewer delegates were available to Republicans. A primary win in Georgia would send a signal that a candidate has broad appeal — and, ultimately, that they would be a credible contender as a party's standard-bearer in the 2024 general election.

No need to surrender

Awash in viruses, including influenza and covid-19, the nation can fight back.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGIST Katelyn Jetelina spared no words this week in noting that the United States is awash in viruses, with covid-19, RSV and influenza all rising together. "I'm running out of adjectives to describe it," she said. "Unprecedented. Worrisome. A pain. Exhausting." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the level of "influenza-like illness," or ILI, a broad measure of respiratory disease in the community, is soaring. But there are ways to fight back.

Influenza is always seasonal; this year it struck early. According to the CDC, hospitalization rates in the week of Nov. 20-26 were higher than during that week in every previous flu season of the last 11 years. Also, the number of flu hospital admissions that week almost doubled compared with the week before. Fortunately, the majority of viruses being tested are genetic matches to those in the flu vaccine this year. What you can do: get a flu shot.

For many years, scientists have worried about the potential of influenza evolving into a pandemic and catching humans off guard without an effective vaccine. They have searched in vain for a universal flu vaccine that could take on all influenza viruses, including those that have yet to emerge. Current vaccines are built to immunize against only four strains. Now, Scott Hensley of the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues have reported a positive development. Using the mRNA technology that proved so successful in the covid pandemic, they have developed an experimental flu vaccine that, in tests on mice and ferrets, appears to fight the entire family of influenza viruses. This could transform the way we combat influenza, both seasonal and pandemic.

Meanwhile, the covid pandemic is not yet over. After the Thanksgiving holiday brought people together indoors, covid hospitalizations among those 70 years and older have jumped 28 percent, a sign of a potential new wave. As Ms. Jetelina points out, this represents a public health failure. Uptake of the bivalent booster is only 32.6 percent of the eligible population over 65 years old, and a disastrously low 12.7 percent of those 5 years and older, according to the CDC. The federal government needs to redouble efforts to improve the booster uptake, and to persuade the vulnerable, especially the elderly, to get the shots. Health-care workers and community leaders should join the campaign. The bivalent booster does not squarely aim at the new variants that are emerging, but should provide protection against severe illness and hospitalization, and thus the benefits of the shot outweigh not getting it. The low booster uptake means that millions of Americans are relying on earlier vaccinations that are waning in effectiveness. Many who had covid will also have some natural immunity. But as professor Eric Topol declared recently: "It's quite simple. You want to avoid severe covid and hospitalization, you need a booster within the past 4-6 months."



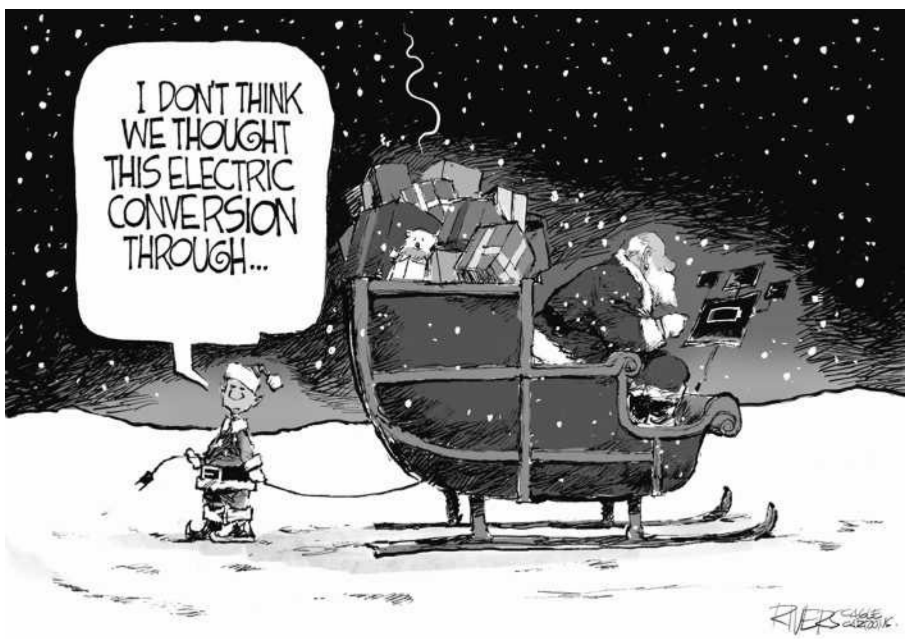
MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker prepares a flu vaccine at a community resource center in Lynwood, Calif., on Oct. 28.

CDC director Rochelle Walensky told us Wednesday that the first line of defense for Americans and their families is getting a covid booster and a flu shot. "Item number two: Do what you can to protect yourself," she said. "Don't go out when you're sick. Don't be around people who are sick, cough into your sleeve, go to well-ventilated places and wear masks."

Although the CDC recommendation for masks is based on covid, they work to mitigate the other respiratory viruses, too. It makes sense to take them out of the drawer and put them on to fight all three of the current viruses, especially when you are indoors in a crowded place. It can help you get through the months ahead without the suffering both covid and influenza can inflict.

DRAWING BOARD RIVERS



BY RIVERS FOR CAGLECARTOONS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@washpost.com

Heed Jefferson's words

In her Dec. 4 Opinions Essay, "Originalism is bunk. Liberal lawyers shouldn't fall for it.," Ruth Marcus rightly asks whether the country's Founders meant the Constitution to be fixed in time as the Founders then understood it. Thomas Jefferson didn't think so. He said this in a statement engraved on the wall of the Jefferson Memorial:

"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as a civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

It seems likely the framers would have intended the current Supreme Court to apply the timeless principles of the Constitution in a way that is relevant to the times that the court and the country are living in now, and to consider the practical consequences of applying those principles to conditions we face today.

Walter Smith, *Washington*

In her essay, Ruth Marcus does an excellent job of demonstrating how Supreme Court justices often manipulate originalist rhetorical tropes to reach outcomes that they favor for political or ideological reasons. Indeed, the questions I often ask my originalist friends are, "How can you know, and why would you care?"

But the question with which Ms. Marcus ends her column is, "If originalism is bunk, what is to take its place?" To me, the answer seems clear. The thing that should take its place is the widespread realization that the Supreme Court, like the president and Congress, is just one of three political branches in our system of government — no more and no less. As a result, when we consider issues such as court-packing or jurisdiction stripping as a means of reining in Supreme Court social policymaking, we should act accordingly.

Girardeau A. Spann, *Bethesda*
The writer teaches constitutional law at Georgetown University.

In defense of roundabouts

I appreciated Andrew Van Dam's Dec. 4 Department of Data analysis, "The rapid rise of the roundabout, and the mayor who made them his mission," [Business] about roundabouts, except for the bizarre and confusing implication that roundabouts are scary ("newfangled" things that "confuse and bedevil" drivers). As the facts in the analysis make clear, it is quite the opposite: Modern roundabouts have been around for more than 50 years, and we have plenty of evidence to show that they are safer for everyone than so-called normal intersections. With traffic (especially pedestrian) deaths on the rise and so many people already resistant to design improvements, why demonize such an effective solution?

Monica Gorman, *Hyattsville*

The GOP 'doom loop'

I read with approval David Von Drehle's Dec. 4 Sunday Opinion column, "Blame Pat Buchanan for the GOP's doom loop," with some exceptions. First, he criticizes the Newt Gingrich-led impeachment of President Bill Clinton only for the reason it had no chance of gaining a Senate conviction. Mr. Von Drehle clearly misunderstands, or turns a blind eye to, the reason the Clinton impeachment represents a low point in modern congressional history: It was nothing more than a viciously hyperpartisan, constitutionally meritless attempt to destroy a Democratic president.

Second, Mr. Von Drehle attempts to denigrate the two impeachments of President Donald Trump as, again, impeachments that had no chance of leading to a Senate conviction, writing that Democrats (foolishly) "doubled down" on the misguided Clinton impeachment. This is just revisionist whitewashing. The Trump impeachments were the most open-and-shut impeachment cases we will ever see. The only reason Mr. Trump was not convicted was the utter lack of courage and integrity by congressional Republicans.

Third, Mr. Von Drehle's analysis fails to include the role of the mendacious conservative media in the GOP's descent into the sewer. He refers to "Buchanan to Gingrich to Trump" as the main drivers along the road to the sewer, but the body-politic-poisoning conservative media is a glaring omission, as is the hyperpartisan, mindlessly reckless Republican caucus.

Bill Conrad, *Alexandria*

A misguided D.C. proposal

I was dismayed to learn from the Dec. 2 Metro article "Housing authority could face overhaul" that D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's proposed solution to the crisis at the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) is to dissolve the agency's governing board and reduce the number of board members to a smaller group solely appointed by her.

The bill, which D.C. Council Chair Phil Mendelson has promised to reintroduce later this month after withdrawing it during the council's Dec. 6 meeting, is not the reform that the DCHA needs. It would eliminate board members, such as Bill Slover, who have been outspoken about the agency's failings, and would likely stymie any push for changes among DCHA's top ranks, despite the continued decline in the agency's performance over the past 18 months. The District's subsidized-housing residents deserve an independent board that will provide the oversight needed to drive reform of this critical but troubled agency. As a legal aid attorney who has represented many tenants of subsidized housing in D.C., I can attest to the systemic problems that plague DCHA, and to the cost of the agency's failings in human terms. I hope the D.C. Council will decisively reject the mayor's legislation.

Margaret Emery, *Washington*

No magic in this Kingdom

Regarding the Nov. 27 Travel article, "9 park changes Disney fans want following ex-CEO's return":

I would like to share my experience on visiting Disney's Animal Kingdom last month. Maybe there is a chance returning Disney CEO Bob Iger would read my letter.

I sacrificed a vacation day and a hard-earned $159 to stand in line for 3½ hours to experience a five-minute ride on "Avatar Flight of Passage." The safari train ride had a wait time of more than two hours. For an extra $22, we had the option to "jump the line," but it was not available for either ride.

We walked shoulder to shoulder in a sardine-can-like atmosphere with triple strollers blocking any chance at passing. Using the restroom or getting a drink was another half-hour wait. It made me question the population of the Earth and where the hell these families get all this disposable income to throw away.

Tell me what is enjoyable about that experience? It was sheer aggravation and regret. I'm a Florida resident and will never attend another Disney park. There is no magic there.

Kimberly Durocher, *Bradenton, Fla.*

Letters can be sent to **letters@washpost.com**. Submissions must be exclusive to The Post and should include the writer's address and day and evening telephone numbers. Writers whose letters are under consideration for publication will be contacted.

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GEORGE F. WILL

Doug Ducey could make an alternative to Trump

PHOENIX

With two trenchant sentences, the nation's most successful governor of the 21st century defines the significance of his signature achievement: "Fifty years ago, politicians stood in the schoolhouse door and wouldn't let minorities in. Today, union-backed politicians stand in the schoolhouse door and won't let minorities out."

Hence Gov. Doug Ducey's Empowerment Scholarship Account program, which was enacted this year to provide universal school choice in grades K-12. Every Arizona family is eligible to receive about $7,000 per student per year to pay for private school tuition, home schooling, tutoring, textbooks, online courses, programs for special-needs pupils and more. Money "follows the child," Ducey says, because "Arizona funds students, not systems."

Although the legislature simultaneously increased public school funding by $1 billion, ESA was ferociously opposed by the teachers' unions, whose confidence in the quality of their schools can be gauged by their fear of competition. A union attempt to repeal ESA by referendum failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, partly because of a group (Decline to Sign) in which, Ducey said here last week, Black leaders were disproportionately active.

Writing in National Affairs on "The Arizona Miracle," journalist James K. Glassman notes that 25 years ago Arizona had about one-third of the nation's charter schools, with 21,000 students (3 percent of the state's public school pupils, the nation's higher proportion of charter-school students). Today, the figures are 232,000, and 21 percent.

Ducey, who is exiting after the permissible two terms, might see his program attacked by the newly elected Democratic governor, Katie Hobbs, who attended a private school but ran on a platform hostile toward school choice. If Ducey's program survives, it can be a template for other states. In which case, Ducey would rank with Horace Mann, the 19th-century innovator, as a transformer of American education.

Ducey has been a full-spectrum conservative: Arizona has the nation's lowest (2.5 percent) flat income tax, and a $1.4 billion rainy day fund. Nineteen states have emulated Arizona's pioneering law that requires students to pass a civics test before graduating from high school. Second Chance Center programs help inmates reenter society. Legislation protects girls' sports from unfair competition, and children from irreversible gender reassignment surgery before age 18.

During a September speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California, Ducey deplored the fact that "a dangerous strain of big-government activism has taken hold" in the Republican Party, and "for liberty's sake we need to fight it with every fiber in our beings": "A vocal corner of conservative politics is defined more by attitude — and anger — than commitment to a specific set of ideals."

Such conservatives "are just as happy bossing us around and telling us — and businesses — how to lead our lives as the progressive left is. ... And yes, a good many small-government conservatives have morphed into bullies — people who are very comfortable using government power to tell companies and people how to lead their lives ... we are sharpening the knife the left will eventually use on us."

Ducey thereby distanced himself from national conservatives, and perhaps from Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, a brawler against woke corporations (e.g., Disney). Ducey also rejected excessive judicial deference to congressional majorities and the discretion of federal agencies. Deference often is a dereliction of the judicial duty to protect the separation of powers, compelling Congress to legislate rather than delegate essentially legislative powers to executive agencies. Ducey endorsed "judicial engagement," predicting that an array of federal agencies "are about to get spanked, slapped down and reversed" by the Supreme Court applying the Constitution "to rein in the regulatory leviathan that threatens to strangle growth, opportunity and individual liberties."

Ducey, like Arizona's first presidential nominee, Barry Goldwater, is a cheerful malcontent. Like Tennessee's Republican Gov. Bill Lee, Ducey says, "I'm a conservative. I'm just not angry about it." A plurality of Americans call themselves conservative, and probably a majority of this plurality are not angry but are embarrassed by today's politics. Ducey, Lee, DeSantis and other governors — including New Hampshire's Chris Sununu, Massachusetts's Charlie Baker, Maryland's Larry Hogan, Ohio's Mike DeWine, Texas's Greg Abbott, Iowa's Kim Reynolds, Arkansas's Asa Hutchinson, Nebraska's Pete Ricketts, Virginia's Glenn Youngkin — make a strong Republican bench. Surely one of them will prevent Donald Trump from being, through a third election cycle, the florid face of one of the two parties that since 1856 have framed American politics.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. and rainbow flags are held up outside the Supreme Court on June 26, 2015.

I'm proud to protect marriage as one of my last acts as speaker

BY NANCY PELOSI

Since the landmark Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* seven years ago, same-sex couples have enjoyed the same marriage protections as other couples.

But right now, that fundamental freedom is under real, direct and urgent threat.

In June, the Republican supermajority on the Supreme Court eviscerated long-standing precedent and the right to privacy with its disgraceful decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Justice Clarence Thomas took explicit aim at marriage equality: urging the court to reconsider *Obergefell* and upend the lives of countless families across the country. While his legal reasoning is twisted and unsound, we must take Justice Thomas — and the extremist movement behind him — at his word.

Our Respect for Marriage Act combats this threat by requiring states to recognize same-sex marriages as long as they are valid in the state where they were performed. It also finally repeals the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, so that no future MAGA majority in Congress or president in the White House can wield this policy as a weapon of bigotry.

We soon will send this vital legislation to President Biden for signature: a glorious triumph of love, of freedom and of dignity for all.

This action is the latest step forward in House Democrats' longtime fight for full equality, waged alongside generations of fearless activists.

In my first speech on the House floor, I declared that "we must take leadership of course in the crisis of AIDS."

During my first speakership, we erased the egregious "don't ask, don't tell" policy from the books — ensuring gay and lesbian Americans can openly serve their country. We advanced justice for the millions at risk of violence simply for who they are or whom they love with our Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. And we dramatically increased funding to fight HIV/AIDS — here at home and around the globe.

Since Democrats retook the House majority four years ago, we have twice passed the watershed Equality Act, which would secure full civil rights protections for sexual orientation and gender identity — in the workplace and in every place. House Democrats also forcefully fought back against the previous administration's abhorrent ban on transgender service members, which President Biden swiftly repealed upon taking office.

And now, we celebrate the Respect for Marriage Act.

There remains more work ahead. Horrifically, Republican states have sought to ban transgender athletes from the playing field, prosecute parents who seek gender-affirming care for their children and even muzzle teachers for acknowledging the existence of same-sex couples.

Our nation is forever grateful for the many extraordinary contributions that LGBTQ Americans have made in the arts and sciences, health care and human rights, businesses and nonprofits and as leaders in our communities. To our LGBTQ friends, family and neighbors: We see you, we stand with you and we will never rest until you can enjoy the respect, dignity and safety you deserve.

Just as I began my career fighting for LGBTQ communities, I am overjoyed that one of the final bills I will sign as speaker will be the Respect for Marriage Act — ensuring the federal government will never again stand in the way of marrying the person you love.

After the *Obergefell* decision was announced, Jim Obergefell declared to an ecstatic crowd outside the Supreme Court, "Today's ruling from the Supreme Court affirms what millions across this country already know to be true in our hearts: Our love is equal."

That is a truth that Democrats proudly honor this week as we carry on our mission to build a brighter, fairer future for generations to come.

The writer, a Democrat from California, is speaker of the House of Representatives.

JASON REZAIAN

Ending the morality police won't change laws

"Abolish" is a big word. If you're using it, you had better be sure you're using it right.

That's why I've been reluctant to repeat, retweet or even comment on the news this week that Iran "abolished" — according to an embarrassing number of headlines — its infamous morality police.

The initial reports were based on the comments of Iranian Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, who alluded to the shuttering of the notorious police force in a response to a question at a news conference. On Monday, another government official closer to the specific committee that oversees hijab enforcement apparently confirmed the closure.

It's very tempting to take this dissolution and run with it as a sign of change in Iran. The morality police were not only behind the detention and death of Mahsa Amini that set off nationwide protests; they have long been reviled. My very first report for The Post back in July 2012 was about their unwelcome annual reemergence to enforce full-body coverings for women during the hot Tehran summer. At first glance, the morality police's disbanding looks like a big concession to protesters specifically and a sea change in Iran generally.

But there's a catch: Even if the morality police stop patrolling the streets, that alone would have no bearing on the hijab laws that govern women's dress. Plenty of other agencies exist that could enforce hijab if ordered to do so. In fact, the moral enforcement spokesman also reportedly said Monday that government officials are already busy weighing the creation of what would be a Morality Police 2.0 — taking advantage of "newer, more updated and detailed methods" to impose hijab and other draconian values.

Nothing is getting "abolished" here. Slavery is abolished. Child labor is abolished. Should Iran's supreme leader one day come out and say women can dress however they like, *that* will be abolition (and even that would fall short of protesters' demands of an end to the regime).



MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA NEWS AGENCY/REUTERS

A man holds a newspaper with a picture of Mahsa Amini, a woman who died after an arrest by the Islamic republic's morality police in Tehran in September.

Right now, though, in the Islamic republic, the hijab is at most getting a makeover, all because of one official's offhand response at an in-country news conference.

Unfortunately, those of us outside the country let that distract us; the news of the morality police, at least momentarily, sucked up all the oxygen in the global conversation about Iran. Meanwhile, actually consequential things are unfolding there. Look at the three-day strike of thousands of retail businesses underway or at the mass trials of protesters that are beginning to lead to death sentences. These events are much more important — and much less noticed — than the non-story of the morality police.

To be fair, independent media outlets are in a difficult spot. Iran is not the same as, say, Ukraine, where international press is not only freely admitted but also welcome and wanted; hardly any foreign journalists are allowed in the Middle Eastern country, and those who do gain entry compromise themselves in the process. Yet Western readers still clamor for a comprehensive picture of the protests in Iran — and criticize the media when it can't provide one. On the morality police, the outside press got a morsel of a satisfying story and, eager to compensate, went overboard.

The real takeaway here is that the outside world cannot be too cautious interpreting events in Iran. Because our putting stock in the closure of a shoddily created unit of nonprofessionals who arbitrarily impose rules rooted in arbitrary interpretations of sharia underscores a fundamental problem with our understanding of life in the Islamic republic right now: We don't have one.

CHARLES LANE

Repression adds up in China and Iran

According to Dictionary.com, the verb "harass" means "to disturb or bother persistently; torment, as with troubles or cares; pester." Recent protests in Iran and China suggest another definition: "what tyrannical governments do to their people."

More than anything else, what seems to have brought the people of both countries into the streets was being fed up with authorities' incessant but unavoidable demands: In Iran, mandatory wearing of a hijab, or headscarf, for women (among other strictures); in China, endless lockdowns and coronavirus testing, on top of much other systematic surveillance and censorship.

Neither regime seems in danger of falling, though it's anyone's guess how the two dramas get resolved.

It's not too soon, however, to reflect on the universal human need for autonomy that drives both struggles and the enigmatic process by which a people can shift — seemingly suddenly — from political quiescence to the opposite.

The Declaration of Independence has been subjected to retrospective critique largely because of the passages in which the Continental Congress blamed King George III for unleashing "merciless Indian Savages" or stirring "domestic insurrections" by offering enslaved Black people freedom in exchange for their support.

As political analysis, though, the document is rock-solid: The declaration noted "all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations . . . evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government."

It was "repeated injuries and usurpations," including the dispatch of "swarms of Officers to harrass our people," that pushed previously loyal or, at least, passive colonists to the breaking point.

Whether the declaration's specific gripes about taxes still resonate today, the frustration at overbearing authority it expressed should. That sentiment links the patriots of the 1770s with contemporary rebels.

They range from the 1960s civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer — "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired" — to Mohamed Bouazizi, the young Tunisian street vendor who triggered the Arab Spring by lighting himself on fire in 2010 to protest being arrested for peddling without a permit.

Of course, people not only can tolerate — even embrace — taxes, permitting laws and public health restrictions; they should do so when such rules enjoy legitimacy, in reality and perception. That legitimacy, in turn, hinges partly on whether the public has some say in making them.

What drove Bouazizi to self-destruction was not that the police punished him by taking away scales he used to measure out his wares — but that a local official refused to see him when he came to complain. What drove Chinese to mount protests in recent days was not just the "zero covid" policy but the sense that they were being lied to about its collateral costs — such as the lockdown's possible interference with responding to a deadly fire in Xinjiang.

When authorities respond to reasonable disagreement or innocent mistakes with deadly violence, as millions believe Iran's morality police did by arresting young Mahsa Amini for an alleged violation of the hijab rule — and then beating her to death — the consequences can be explosive indeed.

If unchecked harassment defines tyranny, the absence of any restraint does not define freedom. The latter does, however, require that any restrictions on people's rights be limited and lawful. Governments can only find lasting stability based on the informed, uncoerced "consent of the governed," just as the declaration said.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and China's Communist Party chief, Xi Jinping, see things differently.

Each believes that ideological precepts authorize him to dictate how his people live, in granular detail. Each has adopted the view that the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union — the greatest triumph over tyranny in recent memory — resulted from a U.S.-instigated plot that Moscow lacked the means or the will to thwart.

Khamenei and Xi are of course capable of pragmatically calibrating the official harassment their people bear. Xi appears to be easing the zero covid policy in part to defuse protests. Khamenei's government, by contrast, has denied Western media reports it would abolish the morality police, though it has reportedly reduced their presence and many women have left their hair uncovered with impunity.

Still, both men's ultimate prescription for stability — which they equate with regime survival — is repression. To them, unrest is not their people's foreseeable response to being under constant official pressure; it is a foreign-inspired test of their political determination. And they intend to pass it at any price, as the long-suffering Iranian and Chinese people know all too well.

Emhoff, Jewish leaders discuss spike in antisemitism

Second gentleman steps into spotlight, urging all to condemn 'vile acts'

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. AND JOHN WAGNER



OLIVER CONTRERAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Doug Emhoff, center, husband of Vice President Harris, delivers remarks during a Wednesday roundtable to address the rise of antisemitism. The event included groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Congress and Jewish on Campus.

Decrying "an epidemic of hate facing our country," second gentleman Doug Emhoff convened a roundtable with Jewish leaders on Wednesday, an attempt by one of the most prominent Jewish Americans to address a rise in antisemitism and a rare step into the spotlight by Vice President Harris's husband.

The event, which included representatives of more than a dozen groups from across the country, has been in the works for some time, but it took on increased resonance in the wake of former president Donald Trump's recent dinner at his Florida estate with white supremacist Nick Fuentes and the rapper Ye, both of whom have advanced antisemitic views.

"Let me be clear: Words matter. People are no longer saying the quiet parts out loud, they are screaming them," Emhoff said at the event, which included groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Congress and Jewish on Campus. "We cannot normalize this. We all have an obligation to condemn these vile acts. We must not stay silent. There is no either/or. There are no two sides. Everyone must be against this."

That Emhoff would take a leading role in denouncing recent antisemitic events might be expected in many ways, since he is the first Jewish spouse of a president or vice president. But navigating a subject that relates to a controversy surrounding a former president — and other Republicans' response to it — also puts Emhoff in the middle of an uproar in a way that is unusual for the second gentleman.

The White House has emphasized that the entire administration, not just Emhoff, is actively fighting antisemitism. And though Emhoff has pushed in recent weeks to take a higher-profile role in speaking out about a matter of personal import, he has spent two years deferring to the administration's needs and portraying himself as a selfless member of his wife's supporting cast.

In his remarks Wednesday, he sought to emphasize the administration's broader efforts.

"President Biden [and] Vice President Harris have met Holocaust survivors. I've kept in touch with the survivors. I've shared messages of hope and strength," the second gentleman said. "For me today, this is not the end of the conversation, it's just the beginning of the conversation."

Other White House officials have said that Biden has led his administration's efforts against antisemitism and other forms of hate. Biden has long said that he was inspired to run for president by the 2017 Unite the Right rally of white supremacists and Ku Klux Klan members in Charlottesville, especially with Trump's remark afterward referencing "very fine people on both sides."

At Wednesday's White House news briefing, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden "has been consistent on calling [antisemitism] out."

On Friday, in a tweet seemingly directed at Trump, who has not disavowed his recent dinner guests, Biden said, "I just want to make a few things clear: The Holocaust happened. Hitler was a demonic figure. And instead of giving it a platform, our political leaders should be calling out and rejecting antisemitism wherever it hides. Silence is complicity."

The message is part of a broader Democratic argument that Republicans have become a party that too readily accepts extremist and racist views, or at least those who espouse them. Trump's decision to break bread with Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, and Fuentes came a week after he launched his bid for the GOP nomination, and while some Republicans have condemned the dinner, others have avoided criticizing the former president.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) recently made a statement on the Senate floor condemning "former president Donald Trump's and the MAGA Republican Party's embrace of antisemitism." And Biden has referenced his closeness to the Jewish community, good-naturedly telling a group of Jewish leaders at a White House reception that "I probably went to shul more than many of you did," using a Yiddish word for synagogue.

The back-and-forth has unfolded against the backdrop of a spate of antisemitic incidents, both high-profile and obscure. Basketball star Kyrie Irving apologized recently after sharing an antisemitic video on social media. And the Anti-Defamation League reported that antisemitic incidents in the United States reached an all-time high of 2,717 in 2021, an average of more than seven events per day and a 34 percent increase over last year.

First and second spouses generally try to steer clear of issues that are incendiary or political. While condemning antisemitism is hardly controversial, Emhoff on Wednesday was also indirectly jumping into the debate over behavior by Trump, a former president and potential future opponent of Biden.

White House officials familiar with the second gentleman's thinking, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe his private sentiments, say he has felt inclined to speak out on antisemitism and bigotry since his wife's election as vice president made him a national figure as well. But he has spoken out with additional fervor in recent weeks.

For most of his tenure, Emhoff has portrayed himself as a dutiful surrogate focused on advancing his wife's goals and the Biden administration's aims. He crisscrossed the country to promote vaccinations and other coronavirus pandemic priorities in his first year as second gentleman, making dozens of trips.

Leaning into that supporting role has been particularly important for Emhoff, the first male spouse of a president or vice president. He is married to a woman of Black and Asian descent with major political aspirations and has cultivated an image as his wife's biggest supporter, seeking to present himself as a model for equity across the globe.

But Emhoff has also sought to advance issues that mean something to him personally. And Jewish pride has been top among those.

Emhoff has never described himself as particularly devout. He attended temple in his hometown of Old Bridge, N.J., and had a bar-mitzvah, but he has portrayed himself as mostly secular, though active on the high holidays — a description that fits many American Jews.

But when his wife was elected vice president, he embraced the role as one of the nation's most prominent Jewish Americans. He affixed a mezuza — a small parchment that reminds Jews of God's presence and commandments — at the entrance to the U.S. Naval Observatory, the vice president's official residence. He also hosted the first Passover Seder there.

Pending rollback of vaccine requirement by Congress frustrates Pentagon

Military officials warn that GOP-led move risks harming troop readiness

BY DAN LAMOTHE, ALEX HORTON AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

The Biden administration fumed Wednesday at the near-certainty that Congress will strip away the Defense Department's requirement that all military personnel be vaccinated against the coronavirus, upending a politically divisive policy that has led to the dismissal of nearly 8,500 service members and numerous lawsuits disputing its fairness.

The agreement, brokered as part of the Pentagon's next spending bill, was celebrated by Republicans as a victory for individual choice. It comes despite opposition from President Biden and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who characterized the vaccine mandate as a way of protecting troops from covid-19 and preventing sprawling outbreaks that sideline entire units, undermine the military's readiness and endanger national security.

The looming reversal — spurred by Republicans who had threatened to block passage of the $858 billion spending bill if the mandate wasn't struck down — creates a rat's nest for the Pentagon. Commanders whose job it was to enforce the mandate will face the onerous task of assessing whether — and how — to allow back into uniform those already separated from the military for refusing to follow orders. Managing overseas deployments, especially in countries that require visitors to be vaccinated, will create burdensome logistical headaches as well, officials said.

John Kirby, a White House spokesman, would not say whether Biden would entertain vetoing the bill, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), if as expected the legislation passes both chambers of Congress with the repeal intact. But Kirby emphasized that the administration believes scrubbing the vaccine mandate is a "mistake" and castigated those in the GOP who pushed to end it.

Republicans, he said, "have obviously decided that they'd rather fight against the health and well-being of those troops rather than protecting them."

Privately, some Defense Department personnel were even more pointed.

One senior defense official said that when service members "inevitability get sick, and if they should die, it will be on the Republicans who insisted upon this." The official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the polarizing issue, cited the sprawling coronavirus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in spring 2020. The vessel — a major power-projection weapon — was sidelined for weeks through a cumbersome quarantine process with more than 1,200 cases in a crew of about 4,800, and one sailor died.

"How does this impact deployments? How does this impact overseas training assignments? How does this impact overseas assignments generally?" this official asked. "What are the downstream consequences of this shortsighted insistence in the new law?"

A Navy officer with more than 2,000 sailors under his command recalled standing before his entire crew and explaining why it was not only important to get vaccinated but essential to the Navy's mission readiness.

"I look like a clown now," the officer said, intimating that, by reversing the mandate, lawmakers had weakened the military's ability to enforce and maintain good order and discipline. "What happens when the next [unpopular directive] comes along, whether for vaccines or something else? I've lost my credibility to say 'Do this' when they know they can probably wait me out."

"I have been completely undercut in trying to uphold the standards dictated to me from on high," the officer added. "My sailors will have a hard time trusting me in the future when I say that some controversial policy must be complied with."

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. David H. Berger, gave a careful answer when asked about the legislation Wednesday, saying that as a military officer, he doesn't have to get into politics — "nor should I." He called the discussion about the mandate "a 'political thing'" but acknowledged he would continue to advocate that personnel get vaccinated.

"All of us who are wearing a uniform, we get a bunch of vaccines every year," Berger told reporters in Washington. "We want Marines to get the vaccine not necessarily because it's going to prevent them from getting it, but it's going to prevent them from getting sick, in a hospital, and worse if they have other conditions. So you can expect us to keep pushing for it."

Katherine L. Kuzminski, a military policy expert at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, said disciplinary problems can arise when rank-and-file troops see the erosion of rules set clearly and forcefully by senior leaders.

"It opens the door for more pushback in the future," she said. "The military fundamentally functions on the enforcement of the chain of command."

Austin enacted the mandate in August 2021 as part of a broader effort by the administration to boost vaccination rates and curb the toll of the deadly virus. Since the pandemic began, 96 U.S. troops, 417 civilian Defense Department employees, 36 military family members and 141 defense contractors working for the department have died, according to Pentagon data.

Enforcement of many of the administration's efforts to require vaccinations in other spheres of life, however, including for federal workers and contractors, have been blocked by the courts or not enforced. Most notably, a sweeping vaccine-or-test policy imposed on large private employers by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration was struck down by the Supreme Court in January, three days after it was supposed to take effect.

More than 8,400 active-duty service members have been separated over vaccine refusal, according to the most recent service data. The Air Force, which has processed 834 active-duty airmen for separation, paused dismissals in July after a court injunction, said Ann Stefanek, a spokesperson. A group of airmen sued the Air Force, alleging that religious-exemption requests were mishandled, and a federal appeals court in Ohio upheld the injunction last month.

The Navy and Marine Corps also stopped some separations because of lawsuits. The Army has continued to force out active-duty soldiers without interruption, said Jason Waggoner, an Army spokesperson.

More than 10,000 soldiers in the Army Reserve and National Guard have refused vaccinations, according to service data, though none have been forced out of the service. Instead, the Army has barred unvaccinated reservists from drills, training and pay until they comply with the order.

Republican congressional leaders have made clear that they do not expect the reversal of the vaccine policy to be the last word on the subject. House Minority Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said in a statement that the Biden administration must correct service records and not stand in the way of reenlisting troops who refused to follow the orders they received.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) went further, saying Wednesday that anyone discharged should be reinstated in the military with back pay. It is not clear how the military would be able to implement such demands or how lawmakers would force them to do so.

Those discharged for the vaccine mandate were disciplined for disobeying an order that was lawful at the time it was given. Last year, Congress ensured that any vaccine discharges would be categorized as honorable or general under honorable conditions, to avoid denying pension or health benefits to any service members who were ousted under the requirement.

Republicans have clamored for an end to the vaccine mandate since it was first implemented and rallied last month around the idea of threatening to block the new defense spending bill unless it was revoked. The idea, first championed by the conservative House Freedom Caucus, quickly found support across the party.

Carol Eisenberg contributed to this report.

U.S. judge tosses lawsuit against Saudi crown prince over Khashoggi's death

BY MARÍA LUISA PAÚL

Despite "credible allegations" of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's involvement in the 2018 killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. federal judge on Tuesday ordered a lawsuit against the Saudi royal to be dismissed.

The basis for the decision, wrote Judge John D. Bates of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was the legal protections the prince is entitled to in his new role as Saudi Arabia's prime minister.

"The United States has informed the court that he is immune, and Mohammed is therefore 'entitled to head of state immunity … while he remains in office,'" Bates wrote in the Tuesday filing, which also dismissed the claims against two senior Saudi officials due to a lack of adequate proof in establishing the court's jurisdiction over their case.

Last month, the Biden administration determined that Mohammed — also known as MBS — was immune from the suit brought forth in 2020 by Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, and the civil rights organization he founded before his death, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), given his appointment as "sitting head of government." On Sept. 27, Mohammed was named prime minister by his father, King Salman — just six days before the U.S. State Department's court-imposed deadline to determine whether Mohammed was protected from legal action.

The move was decried by DAWN as a "last ditch effort to escape the jurisdiction of the court."

"DAWN's lawsuit against [Mohammed] bin Salman (MBS) for his ruthless murder of Jamal Khashoggi is only one part of our continued efforts for justice and accountability for this crime, and the many other crimes the Saudi government is perpetrating against its own citizens," Sarah Leah Whitson, the organization's executive director, said in a statement. "While we are disappointed in the decision, we will consider all options to continue our legal challenges to MBS's criminal behavior."

Mohammed has said he takes responsibility for the murder but has denied any personal role in the brutal killing — one that sent shock waves across the world after a U.N. investigation found that the Washington Post columnist had been a victim of a "deliberate, premeditated execution" at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The CIA also determined months after Khashoggi's death that the prince had ordered the assassination.

As a candidate in 2019, President Biden vowed on the campaign trail to make Mohammed a "pariah" and pledged that accountability for the torture and dismemberment of the journalist would follow. Three years later, a meeting between the two leaders in Saudi Arabia — and the fist-bump with which Biden and Mohammed greeted each other — was widely condemned online.

Ahead of Biden's trip in July to the Middle Eastern kingdom, Cengiz wrote an op-ed published by The Post imploring the president to "uphold your promise to pursue justice for Jamal."

"President Biden, imagine yourself in my position, trying to move on while knowing that the people who killed your loved one are still free," Cengiz wrote. "Imagine the trauma of knowing that what happened to your loved one can and will happen to someone else because the perpetrators know there will be no consequences."

The Washington Post
METRO
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 EZ SU **B**

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.	High today at approx. 2 p.m.
50°	54°	54°	49°	57° Precip: 0% Wind: NNW 7-14 mph

JOHN KELLY'S WASHINGTON
In the mid-1970s, this future D.C. lawyer really sunk his teeth into a bit part in the film "Jaws." B3



VIRGINIA
In a lawsuit, a worker says he raised concerns about the Walmart supervisor in last month's shooting. B4



OBITUARIES
Jim Stewart, 92, was a co-founder of the powerhouse Memphis soul label Stax Records. B6

Distracted pilot cited in vessel's bay mishap

Cargo ship got stuck in Chesapeake after missing a turn, Coast Guard says

BY IAN DUNCAN

A pilot was distracted by his phone for a minute at a critical turn in a shipping channel just before the mammoth Ever Forward container vessel became stuck on the muddy bottom of the Chesapeake Bay earlier this year, according to a Coast Guard investigation into the incident.

The ship's crew appeared to be aware that something was amiss but didn't do enough to get the pilot's attention before the ship went aground March 13, the report indicates. The Ever Forward remained stationary for about five weeks.

The Coast Guard report, released Tuesday, provides a timeline of the events that unfolded on the 1,095-foot ship after it left Baltimore for Norfolk. The stranded ship had become a magnet of curiosity in the Washington region, drawing onlookers to a bayside park to watch the effort to refloat the cargo vessel.

From almost the moment the pilot came aboard, the report says, he was distracted by a problem at the port, followed by a personal phone call that lasted nearly an hour.

While the Coast Guard report didn't name the pilot, the Maryland Department of Labor said in a statement Tuesday that a state licensing board had suspended the license of the pilot, whom it identified as Steven Germac.

The Labor Department said Germac's license was suspended in October and that he had not worked on a vessel in the bay since the incident.

The evidence was enough to support a finding that the pilot was negligent, a Coast Guard investigator concluded. The investigator recommended federal authorities take enforcement action against him, but in a memo filed with the report, a senior Coast Guard official said he would wait for state-level proceedings to conclude before making a decision.

A state hearing on the case that would determine the status of the license and any penalty is pending.

Germac could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The vessel was operated by Taiwan-based Evergreen Marine, which also chartered the Ever Given, another huge container ship that gained notoriety when it

SEE AGROUND ON B2



AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Honoring 'Ms. Willie'

She served food, hugs and caring inquiries to generations of Catholic University students. Now a new dining hall bears her name.

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

Ed Gillespie, who as a Catholic University student met Willie Joyner in 1980, gives her a plaque at a dedication of Garvey Hall, which includes the Ms. Willie Joyner Dining Room.

Willie Joyner wiped down a table in the food court at Catholic University, putting a crumpled-up napkin in a plastic bucket she carried, then went to check on the soda machines. "Ketchup, mayonnaise, I make sure it's filled up," she explained, smoothing down the black apron over her uniform. "Napkins, utensils, soda — I clean that, make sure the sodas and iced tea are filled up. Make sure the ice is there, the water's there."

She manages the rushes when the Chick-fil-A opens, at lunch and when classes end in the afternoon. But her real work is constant: A student called out, "Hey, Ms. Willie!" and Joyner smiled.

"Hi, baby!" she said, wrapping her in a hug.

Ms. Willie, as everyone calls her, has thousands of babies. All day at work she greets, comforts, counsels and laughs with people coming in to eat. Next month will mark her 49th year at Catholic, where she has loved and hugged generations of students away from home for the first time.

This week, the school marked how much they love her back.

The university celebrated the opening of a lofty stone building, a new dining hall named after the recently retired longtime president and his wife, John and Jeanne Garvey. It includes a dining room named for another former president.

And it has another one, which honors someone who wasn't a leader or a major donor, at least, not in the way those are typically defined at universities: the Ms. Willie Joyner Dining Room.

"Washington is a city full of monuments to presidents, generals and statesmen," said Ed Gillespie, the Republican leader and former Catholic University trustee, and the campus rightly memorializes leaders of the church and the university and its donors. But this naming gift from alumni recognizes the virtues of faith, loyalty, dedication, hard work and love for others, he said; a recognition of the biblical ideal of "a servant's heart."

Gillespie was Joyner's first baby. Back in 1980 when he was a sophomore — before his long career in Republican politics, including time as chairman of the Republican National Committee and counselor to the president during the George W. Bush administration — he worked in the campus dining hall with Joyner, refilling milk and soda

SEE JOYNER ON B2

Fatal shooting at Metro Center

INCIDENT INVOLVED OFF-DUTY FBI AGENT

He shot gun during altercation, police say

BY PETER HERMANN, JUSTIN GEORGE AND EMILY DAVIES

An off-duty FBI agent fatally shot a man Wednesday evening during an altercation on a Red Line train platform at the Metro Center station, D.C. police said.

The incident occurred around 6:30 p.m. during the typically busy commute, prompting delays and brief panic. Passengers in the station ducked or hit the ground after hearing gunshots and said that a train sped through, apparently to avoid danger.

D.C. Executive Assistant Chief of Police Ashan M. Benedict said the person who was shot assaulted the agent, and the two got into an altercation. He said one grabbed the other and they tumbled over a wall that runs along the edge of the platform, away from the tracks. They fell about eight feet, he said.

Benedict said the agent fired his gun at some point during the struggle. The assistant chief did not answer whether the man who was shot had a weapon but noted that investigators were still processing the scene as of

SEE SHOOTING ON B8

Va. county's Confederate statue vote is delayed

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

MATHEWS, VA. — Mary Sampson finally got fed up after hearing members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans urge county supervisors to deed part of the historic courthouse green to a private group so it could protect the local Confederate monument from mobs and anarchists.

Sampson, one of a handful of Black people among hundreds of residents who packed a high school auditorium here Tuesday night for a public hearing, testified that she was tired of seeing gun-toting SCV members patrolling a statue that has never been vandalized or threatened.

Confederate groups are "the same ilk that would have kept my ancestors enslaved up until today," said Sampson, a retired social worker, her voice rising as a few people tried to shout her down. "And I don't care if you don't like it! I don't care if you don't like it!" she said.

Unlike previous meetings where the pro-Confederate side seemed to be the loudest, much of the crowd roared in support for Sampson. Many wore green or waved green sheets of paper to send a message to the supervisors: Keep the courthouse green intact.

After more than two and a half hours of impassioned public comment on both sides of the issue, the supervisors took no action and said they wanted to give it more thought. But the hearing made clear that the county's move to consider such an unusual step, which apparently would be a first for Virginia, has had the side effect of uniting a disparate group

SEE STATUE ON B4

Parents want off this roller coaster of sickness



Theresa Vargas

I never thought I would fear such a quiet sound. But on a recent afternoon, as my 10-year-old buckled his seat belt, I heard more than a click. I heard a sniff. Then I heard another one, and another one.

Sniff. Sniff. Sniff.

Like many working moms, a dozen thoughts had been wrestling in my mind before that moment. Then, suddenly, they all grew still and made way for a new one: *Not again.*

For parents across the country, the school year started with so much promise.

We had made it past that awful year of virtual learning, when we had to teach children who had grown up hearing us talk about the importance of limiting screen time how to focus on a screen for hours on end. *No, you can't just turn your camera off because you want to. Of course, you can turn your camera off if you need to cry.* That year, I saw my gregarious, normally unflappable first-grader — a boy who as a toddler would calmly offer a warning before he vomited — fight tears every time he had to log into his class.

But we made it through that year, and the year that followed. Remember that year, parents? Or have you tried to block it out?

That was the year when children showed up at schools with masks on their faces and a weight on their shoulders that went beyond the contents of their backpacks. Teachers were forced to confront learning loss, undeveloped social skills and exhausted parents who were trying to navigate how to keep their jobs and their children

SEE VARGAS ON B5

Virginia Rep. McEachin is laid to rest

BY MEAGAN FLYNN



JULIA RENDLEMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.) in 2019. His funeral Wednesday was attended by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other dignitaries.

Dozens of members of Congress and other Virginia dignitaries paid their respects to Rep. A. Donald McEachin at his funeral in Richmond on Wednesday morning, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

McEachin died last week at the age of 61 after a long battle with the secondary effects of colorectal cancer treatment, a death his family and staff described as sudden and unexpected. The funeral, which was not open to the media, was held at St. Paul's Baptist Church. The Virginia Democrat had since 2017 represented the 4th Congressional District, anchored in Richmond, and had served in both the Virginia House of Delegates and the state Senate, amassing a quarter-century career in public service.

"We really had an amazing send-off for our friend," Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), who spoke at the funeral, said later Wednesday. Kaine said that in his speech he described how McEachin lived by the theology of liberation after studying to become a minister while in his 40s, "and I talked about the theme of liberation in his life — even liberated from the health challenges that he struggled against so mightily in his last decade."

Closing out his speech, Kaine sang a line from a gospel song: "Praise the Lord, I'm free."

Pelosi (D-Calif.), House Majori-

SEE MCEACHIN ON B3

Pilot distraction cited in cargo ship incident in Chesapeake

AGROUND FROM B1

became lodged in the Suez Canal in 2021, snarling global trade.

The Ever Forward pilot, who had 15 years of experience, was on the phone for about half of the two-hour trip down the bay, according to the Coast Guard report.

He told investigators it was common for pilots to handle personal matters on long trips. But another pilot who had guided the Ever Forward into Baltimore the previous day told investigators he would only feel comfortable using his phone in an emergency, according to the report.

While the report described the pilot as agitated throughout the trip, the first two hours went fairly smoothly. At 8:16 p.m., the ship was on its proper course through a bend in the shipping channel.

It was then that the pilot began drafting an email, according to the report. At 8:17 p.m., the ship passed a point where it should have made a turn to the right, but no order came from the pilot.

The ship's third officer, the senior crew member on the bridge while the captain was having dinner, announced the ship's heading and speed in an apparent effort to prompt the pilot to correct course, but didn't directly say the turn had been missed, according to the report. Germac acknowledged the announcement, the report said.

"The Third Officer stated that the Pilot was still looking at his phone at this time," the Coast Guard investigator wrote.

By 8:18 p.m., the pilot had put his phone away and ordered the ship to make a hard right turn, but it was too late. The 117,000-ton ship was stuck.



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The container ship Ever Forward was freed by tugboats in April. The vessel was traveling between Baltimore and Norfolk when it became stuck along the muddy bottom of the Chesapeake Bay.

The third officer called the captain back to the bridge, and the pilot unsuccessfully tried to use the ship's thrusters to get it free, questioning whether it was really grounded, according to the Coast Guard.

In an initial conversation with the Coast Guard that night, the report indicated Germac said the turn was "executed late" but "that he could not say more until his statement had been reviewed by an attorney."

To get the ship floating again, crews had to solve a Jenga-like puzzle to determine which of the 4,900 containers aboard could be removed to lighten the load, while at the same time scooping 20 feet of mud from the bottom of the bay. A senior Coast Guard official described the scope of the job at the time as historic for both Ever Forward's size and the amount of time it took to dislodge the ship.

'She's looking out for us': Catholic University honors worker who loves to give

JOYNER FROM B1

stations.

He missed his family and small town, he told a crowd celebrating the opening of Garvey Hall on Monday, and Joyner sensed that.

" 'Come here, baby!' she'd say. 'Tell Willie what's bothering you!' "

She comforted him when he hobbled in on crutches after a rugby injury, when a crush didn't work out and when he blew a midterm. She remembered him coming into the dining hall with his hands behind his back one day, hiding flowers. "He gave me my first Mother's Day bouquet," she said.

Over the years, Joyner has seen many changes: New companies running the food services. New places to eat. New buildings. "This food court was the football field," she said, looking over the worn gray tile in the nearly 20-year-old Pryz, as students call the student center. "Centennial Village was woods."

And every year, new babies.

"I've known her since freshman year," said Sienna DeGross, a junior at Catholic, after hugging Joyner in the old food court Monday. "I came in second semester, and she was the one person who made me feel welcome — like an on-campus grandma. I talk to her about life, Scripture, anything. I feel blessed to have gotten to know her."

Pablo Carreno, 19, an offensive lineman on the football team, said, "She's great — fantastic — like family. She's looking out for us."

John Maggio, a freshman, said, "She just has such a giving heart." When he's getting food, she'll call out, "You have a good day!" Or she'll ask, "How was your test?"

Provost Aaron Dominguez said that when Joyner saw one of his staff members many years after he had graduated, she recognized him immediately, greeted him warmly and asked him about "that girl he was chasing." (He had married her.)

"She's just a joy," Dominguez said. "The incarnation of joy."

*

Willie Joyner was raised by her grandparents, uncles and aunts in a small town in North Carolina, and in a nearby Baptist church. They taught her to be respectful to herself, to carry herself like a lady, and have trust in the Lord, she said. And they taught her how to survive.

When she was 16, she moved to D.C. to live with her mother and brothers. She got married, had a child, and worked at American University in the cafeteria for several years. She lived in a rooming house where people helped one another get by, lending money as they got paid on different days, making sure she could feed her daughter, she said. "We picked each other up," she said. They walked together many blocks before dawn to get to the bus by 6 a.m. for work.







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Willie Joyner greets students Monday in the dining room that bears her name at Garvey Hall, the new dining and studying space at Catholic University. Joyner takes a selfie with Jordan Blackwell. Trustees, donors and other school officials in suits joined students Monday at Garvey Hall.

PHOTOS BY AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

She later became a union leader and helped negotiate better contracts.

In 1974, she began working as a cashier in a cafeteria at Catholic, became a supervisor and has worked in multiple spots on campus. Her title now is customer service liaison, she said. "That lets me be able to lead and see what needs to be done," she said, "give it to management and assist management in getting it done. Sometimes they don't like it, but it's my job to make sure the customers are pleased and satisfied."

That means making sure students enjoy college, Joyner said, even when they're feeling lonely or worried about class or uncertain of the future. It's not about race, or money, or expectations, she said. "Do your best, and let God do the rest," she tells them.

It's often so busy there that, she said, "I have to work in the front of them, behind them, in between them and around them. But it's all good, it's all in having a good day of work."

Now 75 and living in Northeast Washington, she has worked through hardships and loss. She separated from her first husband and remarried.

In 2020, one of her granddaughters, who was 19, was dancing at a party when an argument broke out. "She caught one of the bullets," Joyner said. "Shot in the head."

Joyner thinks of her in heaven with family members. "I'm at peace," she said.

*

On Monday afternoon, she gave the food court one last run-through, wiping up some ice that had spilled, giving a few more hugs. She slipped out to take off her hair net and her gray uniform, changing into shiny black shoes and a sparkly red and black sweater.

A crowd gathered in a large heated tent strung with lights next to Garvey Hall. They applauded the donors who had made the building possible, and the former presidents who had brought so many improvements to the school.

Gillespie said that when he and some other alumni heard the hall would be built, they agreed they should donate to honor Joyner there. He cited Pastor Timothy Keller, who wrote that no task is too small to hold " 'the immense dignity of work given by God.'

"For nearly five decades, Willie Joyner has blessed Catholic University students with a shining example" of that, Gillespie said. "Long after she has retired — if she ever retires! — Willie's spirit will infuse that physical space."

Red poinsettias lined the stone steps up Garvey Hall, which was illuminated for the season. Trustees, donors and other school officials in suits joined students in sweatpants at long tables for the first dinner in the new dining hall, with a fire crackling in a large stone fireplace under the vaulted ceiling.

Joyner looked around the new space — with its gleaming subway tile, grilled chicken, espresso machines, calzones, people scooping ice cream, bowls of shiny colorful peppers displayed on counters — and smiled. Her name was right there in big capital letters.

Carreno, the offensive lineman, hugged her despite having a plate of food in both hands.

Joyner's daughter couldn't be there, she said. But her son, his wife and her 9-year-old granddaughter, Destiny A. Little, sat at a round table together, watching her hug, and hug, and hug again. Billy Joyner said he had been coming to Catholic his whole life and "no matter who sees her on this campus, they love her hard." She doesn't have a lot, he said. "For her to get this — it's a blessing."

Joyner was savoring it all, every last bit of it. "To go into the cafeteria and all those kids are just chanting my name" let her know her work was appreciated, she said. "It lets me know I am doing the right thing at Catholic and in God's name. It was all about love. It was all about respect."

Subscriber Exclusives
The Washington Post

Deck the Halls: Free tickets to *Darren Criss* – *A Very Darren Crissmas* on December 14 at Lincoln Theatre

Celebrate the holidays with Darren Criss, a multi-talented musician and songwriter, Broadway star, and Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning actor famous for his roles in *Versace: American Crime Story*, *Hollywood*, and *Glee*. Criss's holiday record, out last year, showcases creative re-imaginings of classic tunes and rarely covered gems. Expect his concert to deliver the same.

See details at washingtonpost.com/my-post.



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N0229 6x1

This future lawyer really sunk his teeth into his part in 'Jaws'



John Kelly's Washington

I think I'm going to need a bigger column.

Sorry, I just had to do a shout-out to one of my favorite films. I don't know how many times I've seen "Jaws" — or bits of it. Let's just say, "A lot." It's one of those movies I can't resist sticking with if I should stumble across it on cable.

The film was shown Monday evening at the Angelika Film Center in Fairfax. Earlier that day, I called up one of the stars, **Greg Dole**.

What, you haven't heard of Greg Dole? If you've seen "Jaws," you've seen Greg. He has spent most of his working life as a D.C. lawyer, first on the Hill and then with Boeing. But in 1974, he was a 24-year-old Navy veteran living near Woods Hole, Mass., where he parked cars and waited to head off to law school at Georgetown.

Woods Hole is where you catch the ferry to Martha's Vineyard. "And so I'm parking cars, about to go to law school, when this big blue van pulls up with 'Universal Studios' on the side," Greg said.

His interest piqued — Greg used to perform in high school plays on Cape Cod, where he grew up — he asked the driver why a movie crew was headed to Martha's Vineyard.

"Making some story about a fish," was the reply.

Greg quickly learned they were shooting a movie of **Peter Benchley's** best-selling novel. He ran out and bought a copy, speed-read it, then headed to the island himself. He met the local casting director, **Shari Rhodes**, who described a few parts, outlined a few scenarios and asked Greg what he'd say in certain situations. For example, what would he say if he was a Coast Guard sonar operator in a skiff off a crowded beach who just happened to spot a great white shark?

"I told her I'd yell, 'Jesus Christ! Fin! Shark, three-five-zero,'" Greg said. (The "3-5-0" is the compass point where he spotted the shark.)

Steven Spielberg happened to walk in just as Greg delivered the line.

"I like that," said the director. "Take him down to wardrobe."

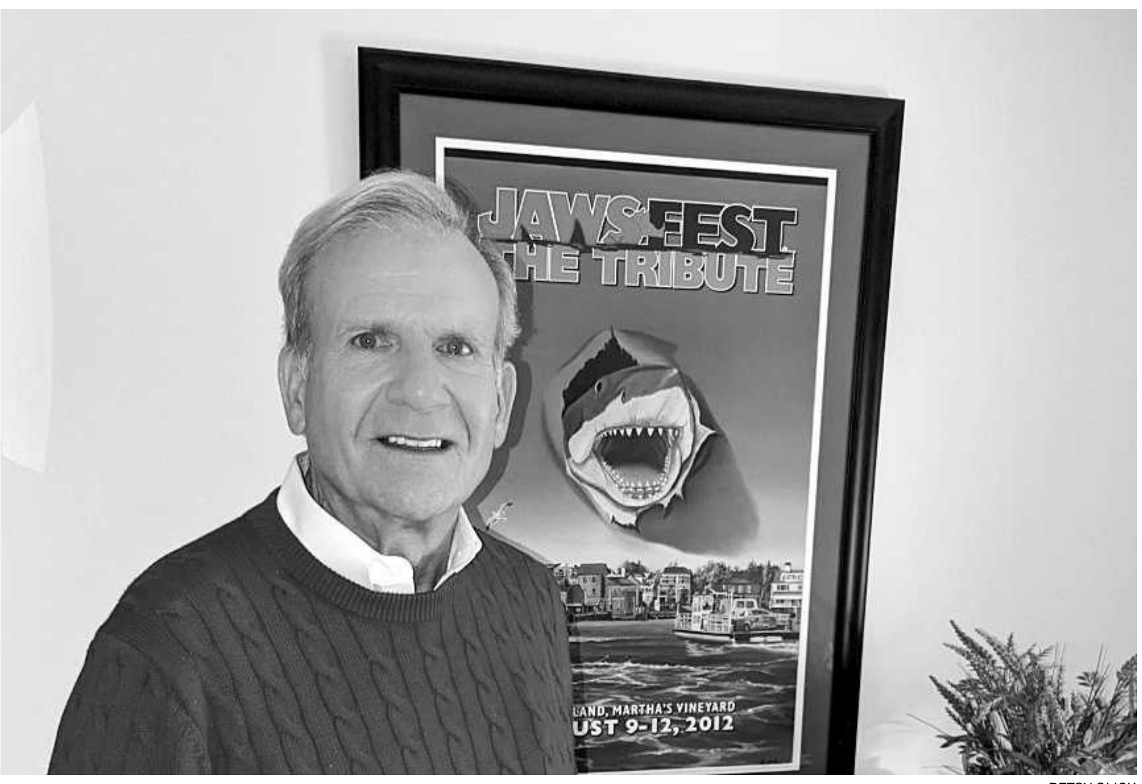
You know the scene. Greg's announcement prompts a chaotic evacuation from the water for what turns out to be two kids with snorkels and a fake fin. Greg was on the "Jaws" set for three weeks — the weather was not cooperating — and when it came time to shoot his scene, he did it in one take.

Greg's mother, **Marion**, always thought her son ought to be in pictures. When he was 3, a photographer in their town said she should take the blond, blue-eyed tyke to Hollywood.

"My brother, my mother and I got on a train and headed to California," Greg said. "We ran out of money in Lincoln, Nebraska."

They stayed with some friends there before heading back east, stardom deferred.

Before Greg left Martha's Vineyard in 1974, he asked Benchley, Spielberg and star **Richard Dreyfuss** to sign his copy of "Jaws."



BETSY GLICK

In 1974, Greg Dole landed a part in "Jaws," which was being shot on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Dole's copy of Peter Benchley's novel is signed by the author, Steven Spielberg and Richard Dreyfuss.

The author signed it "Peter Benchley — who may spend more time NOT working on the picture than he did working on the book."

Spielberg wrote: "Greg, Keep it up. Acting is hard. P.S. Stay away from L.A. It's a bad place to start."

Dreyfuss wrote: "I told it to [Clark] Gable and I'll tell it to you — your ears are too big. Get out of the business."

In 1975, Greg went with his mother to a packed movie theater in Falmouth, Mass. When that scene came on — "Jesus Christ! Fin!" — two people in the audience stood up and said, "I know that guy!"

Greg, 73, hewed more to Dreyfuss's advice than to Spielberg's. He retired from Boeing six years ago and lives in McLean. Every month a "Jaws" royalty check lands in his mailbox.

"I've made about $200,000 in royalties for that scene," he said.

And all for saying four words and a three-digit number. He really does say them well.

A big helping hand for Helping Hand

I have been amazed and delighted by the support readers have been giving to The Washington Post Helping Hand. Last week alone, readers donated nearly $40,000 to **Miriam's Kitchen**, **Friendship Place** and **Bread for the City**, three charities that are working to end hunger and homelessness in the District.

And I have some more good news: The Robert I. Schattner Foundation has pledged to give $150,000 to Helping Hand, to be divided equally among our charity partners.

Schattner was a chemist, dentist and entrepreneur who combined his varied interests in a product he invented: the sore-throat medication Chloraseptic. He later patented Sporicidin, used to sterilize and disinfect medical instruments.

Originally from New York, Schattner moved to the Washington area in the 1950s. He died in Bethesda in 2017. I hope his foundation's gift will inspire others to support Helping Hand. To donate, visit *posthelpinghand.com.*

Rep. McEachin of Va. honored by Pelosi, other dignitaries at Richmond funeral

MCEACHIN FROM B1

ty Whip James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge and Del. Lamont Bagby (D-Henrico) were among those in attendance to honor the late congressman, Kaine said. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) also attended.

"He was a patriot," Pelosi said in her eulogy, according to a transcript released by her office. "In the State Capitol and in the halls of Congress, he was a true patriot who fought to advance justice for the oppressed, justice in every aspect of our big opportunity for the downtrodden and a brighter future for our planet and our children."

In Congress, McEachin's colleagues and friends have remembered him for his fierce advocacy for environmental justice, seeking to confront and mitigate the uneven ways in which climate change or air and water pollutants have long disproportionately affected marginalized communities.

"In fact, his environmental justice policy positions were all about stewardship of God's gifts," Clyburn said in his eulogy, according to a transcript his office released.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The American flag flies at half-staff at the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 29 in honor of Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.), who died at age 61.

Clyburn first met McEachin at his wedding to Colette McEachin — who is now the Richmond commonwealth's attorney — in the 1980s. Clyburn's wife grew up in rural South Carolina with McEachin's mother-in-law, and even in that first meeting, Clyburn said, "I knew right away that I was meeting someone special."

Clyburn also described McEachin's passion for civil rights, recalling the time McEachin enlisted his help to rename Virginia's Fort Lee — named for Confederate general Robert E. Lee — for a high-ranking Black Army veteran, Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg, by pointing out Gregg's South Carolina roots.

"While Don won't be here to witness the renaming, or the realities of so many of his stewardship efforts, such was not his goal," Clyburn said. "He did not run for office to seek personal glory. He was the epitome of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s definition of a public servant. Don had 'a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.'"

McEachin, the son of an Army officer and a teacher, was born in West Germany in 1961. Before his career in politics, he graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and became a trial lawyer, representing personal-injury clients. He later also became an ordained Baptist minister after receiving a master's degree in divinity from Virginia Union University in 2008 — something Kaine said he remembered surprised him at the time, considering McEachin was a father and husband and lawmaker and lawyer, and now working harder on his faith on evenings and weekends, too.

His faith was deeply important to him, Kaine said, and when he asked McEachin why he wanted to go back to school to pursue another degree, he recalled that McEachin seemed to be searching for even greater meaning in his public service.

"The way Donald described it to me, he said, 'The next case I'm going to do, I know it will be helping someone. The next piece of legislation I do, I know that's going to be helping someone. But it can't just be the next case, the next campaign, the next bill,'" Kaine recalled. "'There has to be a way to look at this all together.' I think he wanted to put it into a bigger framework that he could understand as a mission in his life."

First elected to the House of Delegates in 1995, McEachin became the state's first Black nominee of a major party for attorney general in 2001, with now-Sens. Mark R. Warner and Kaine on the ticket. But when he lost that race, McEachin stepped back from politics to reorient himself, preparing for a second act a few years later.

"He didn't take the defeat and say, 'I'm going to take my marbles and go away,'" Warner said in a speech on the Senate floor last week. "No, he said he still had public service in him."

During his tenure in the state Senate, McEachin also became an impassioned advocate for expanding Medicaid and health-care access — especially after he was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, challenging colleagues to place themselves in the shoes of someone staring down the same dire illness but without health insurance.

Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.), who served with McEachin in the state Senate, described him as a mentor in an interview after the memorial, which stretched nearly three hours. It was McEachin, she said, who encouraged her to run for Congress not long after he arrived on the Hill himself.

"He loved his job so much. He was just crowing about it, just how important the work is. He loved being a member of Congress so much, it inspired me," Wexton said.

Though McEachin overcame cancer and rose to Congress, he developed a fistula as a complication of treatment in 2018, requiring two surgeries. McEachin had lost considerable weight amid his health challenges and in recent years had seemed to struggle physically, colleagues said.

The exact cause of death was unclear, though his staff pointed to his struggle with the secondary effects of the cancer treatment.

Last week, both chambers of Congress held a moment of silence for McEachin, as Virginia lawmakers in the House and Senate honored him in speeches. Youngkin (R) has not yet set a date for a special election to fill his seat.

Pelosi said she brought the flags that were lowered at the Capitol in honor of McEachin to his family. In the Capitol, she said, members have left a bouquet of flowers at the desk on the House floor where McEachin always sat.

"If you could see the number of members from both sides of the aisle who go there to pay their respects," she said.

LOTTERIES

Results from Dec. 7

DISTRICT

Day/DC-3:	1-3-8
DC-4:	1-1-5-1
DC-5:	6-0-2-1-2
Night/DC-3 (Tue.):	6-8-0
DC-3 (Wed.):	2-9-8
DC-4 (Tue.):	8-9-2-0
DC-4 (Wed.):	4-2-1-7
DC-5 (Tue.):	6-9-6-9-8
DC-5 (Wed.):	8-6-9-6-6

MARYLAND

Day/Pick 3:	0-1-8
Pick 4:	9-1-5-4
Pick 5:	7-4-4-7-2
Night/Pick 3 (Tue.):	5-6-7
Pick 3 (Wed.):	6-5-0
Pick 4 (Tue.):	6-2-6-7
Pick 4 (Wed.):	7-4-3-0
Pick 5 (Tue.):	0-0-8-2-3
Pick 5 (Wed.):	1-2-2-5-7
Bonus Match 5 (Tue.):	11-14-20-32-33 *38
Bonus Match 5 (Wed.):	3-13-27-31-39 *1

VIRGINIA

Day/Pick-3:	1-5-9 ^0
Pick-4:	6-8-2-9 ^3
Night/Pick-3 (Tue.):	8-3-6 ^4
Pick-3 (Wed.):	9-3-6 ^8
Pick-4 (Tue.):	6-8-5-1 ^7
Pick-4 (Wed.):	5-0-4-0 ^8
Cash-5 (Tue.):	12-20-36-38-40
Cash-5 (Wed.):	4-6-15-32-38
Bank a Million:	4-5-14-21-31-37 *15

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions:	15-16-19-28-47 **13
Megaplier:	3x
Powerball:	6-28-44-59-61 †21
Power Play:	2x
Double Play:	16-25-26-37-48 †16
Cash 4 Life:	5-25-26-34-52 ¶3
Lucky for Life:	2-23-32-44-48 ‡2

*Bonus Ball **Mega Ball ^Fireball
¶ Cash Ball †Powerball ‡Lucky Ball

For late drawings and other results, check **washingtonpost.com/local/lottery**

LOCAL DIGEST

MARYLAND

Two slayings reported in Pr. George's

Officials said two men were fatally shot in a vehicle in Prince George's County.

About 3:40 a.m. Wednesday, officers were called to the scene of a single-vehicle crash in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road near Landover Road in the Bladensburg area, Prince George's County police said.

The officers found two men with gunshot wounds inside the vehicle. They were pronounced dead at the scene. Detectives are trying to find a suspect and determine a motive.

— Dana Hedgpeth

Hogan bans TikTok use in state agencies

Maryland is banning the use of TikTok and certain China- and Russia-based platforms in the state's executive branch of government, Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said Tuesday, the latest state to address cybersecurity risks presented by the platforms.

Hogan announced an emergency cybersecurity directive to prohibit the platforms' use, saying they could be involved in cyberespionage, government surveillance and inappropriate collection of personal information.

The directive comes a week after South Dakota Gov. Kristi L. Noem (R) banned state employees and contractors from accessing TikTok on state-owned devices, citing its ties to China. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster (R) on Monday asked the state's Department of Administration to ban TikTok from all state government devices it manages.

— Associated Press

VIRGINIA

Police shoot, kill dog during house search

Fairfax County police fatally shot a dog Wednesday as officers searched a home in the Herndon area, authorities said.

The investigation stemmed from an incident in late July, in which someone stole a ballistic vest, gas mask and set of keys from an unmarked police vehicle assigned to a civilian investigator from the Prince William County Police Department, authorities said. On Wednesday, Fairfax County police said officers executed a search warrant in the 1500 block of Powells Tavern Place in Herndon to try to recover them.

As they searched the home, at least one officer discharged their gun, striking and killing a dog, police said. Internal Affairs is investigating the shooting.

Police recovered the stolen items, along with an "an AK-47-style rifle," and charged Derrell Williams, 18, of Herndon, with being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of stolen property.

Prince William County police declined to comment. Williams was being held without bond, and an attorney for him could not be located.

— Omari Daniels



Vote to deed Confederate statue land is delayed by county

STATUE FROM B1

of local residents in opposition.

"It's people that we see in various circles and things like that, but there's never been a political coalition built together with them," said Sheila Crowley, a local Democrat who helped organize the group in this rural community of 8,600, where only 8 percent of the population is Black. "It was amazingly organic."

Republicans and Democrats; White and Black residents; younger people and retirees — about 30 people gathered on a Zoom conference call on Saturday and spent two hours strategizing ahead of Tuesday's meeting, Crowley said.

Many were among the 80 percent of voters who favored keeping the statue in a county referendum last year but who oppose the idea of deeding a historic slice of public land to a private entity.

"I voted to keep the statue," said Rob Quartel, a member of the local Republican committee who joined the weekend video conference and said his ancestors fought for the Confederacy.

"It's not about the Confederacy, and it's not about the monument," he told the supervisors. "It's about the green … It's historic and should be indivisible."

County supervisors have spent all year teasing the idea of deeding the monument to a private group after the SCV offered to take it on. Late last month, the board voted to waive county subdivision requirements to make it possible to carve a very small plot of public land — 21 feet by 22 feet — from the courthouse green, which was established in 1791.

The county also drew up a draft deed for transferring the plot — and the generic statue of a Confederate soldier on a column that stands atop it — to a group formed in September called Mathews War Memorial Preservation Inc. for the sum of $10. That group would be responsible for maintaining and defending the statue forever, subject to some restrictions, such as not



"It's not about the Confederacy, and it's not about the monument. It's about the green … It's historic and should be indivisible."

Rob Quartel, a participant in a weekend strategy session about the fate of a Confederate statue



PHOTOS BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER/THE WASHINGTON POST

Residents of Mathews County, Va., above, raise green sheets of paper at a Tuesday county government meeting to show opposition to deeding a piece of the courthouse green to a group that would preserve a Confederate statue, left, that spawned hours of debate.

flying Confederate flags around it.

State records show the preservation group was created by David M. "Sonny" Fauver, a county resident and member of the SCV who has often spoke at meetings in favor of giving away the property in order to protect it. At Tuesday night's hearing, Fauver declined to answer questions about the group or whether it has any other members.

"I have no intention of speaking about it," he said to a reporter, then turned and walked away.

During the public hearing, though, Fauver told the board that the monument is clearly in jeopardy because of a 2020 law passed by the General Assembly that allows localities to take down Confederate memorials. Since then, communities across Virginia — from Fairfax to Charlottesville, Richmond to Isle of Wight County — have removed statues and disposed of them in a variety of ways, from putting them in museums to relocating them to battlefields or keeping them in storage.

"I know in my heart of hearts that that monument is in jeopardy," Fauver said. "It cannot last if it stays in the hands of government." He formed the preservation entity, he said, "simply to hold the deed so the law can't destroy it. That's it."

Confederate defenders from Fredericksburg, Virginia Beach and Isle of Wight also warned of what they saw as the dangers of changing public attitudes about the Civil War. County resident David Callis said he wants the monument to remain in place "until Jesus Christ comes back."

As the night wore on, the rhetoric grew more heated, with some condemning their neighbors as Marxists, thundering that President Biden is a crook and branding the "Democrat Party" a dying cabal of liars. Members of the audience wearing green "are communists," said Doug Sweet, adding that they were "not only sadly misinformed, but you're un-American."

Sweet was one of two county residents who received misdemeanor convictions for their roles in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. The other was Cindy Fitchett, who drew jeers Tuesday night for telling the crowd that Africa was to blame for slavery and that "the woke has tried to take over Mathews County, and we're not going to allow it."

Most of the people who spoke against deeding the statue, though, said they want to see it remain in place under public ownership. Volpe Boykin, a lawyer and SCV member who allowed Isle of Wight to move its statue to his family's property, said he was heartened by that aspect of the debate in Mathews.

"It is a great pleasure to be in a room full of people that, although they disagree on how to save a monument, want to save a monument," Boykin told the supervisors.

Several residents warned that the county's economy was already taking a hit from negative outside attention, including the owner of a local bed-and-breakfast who said she's seen a downturn because the issue is making some people feel unwelcome.

Even former delegate Harvey Morgan, a 92-year-old Republican who had a long career in the General Assembly, rose and warned the supervisors that "there's been no public outcry to transfer public land to a private entity."

Tom Bowen, the local commonwealth's attorney, suggested that if the county is determined to enlist a group to protect the monument, it should do so through a lease, not a deed. The county historical society also opposes the deed, but has offered to take responsibility for the monument if the supervisors insist on that approach.

At the close of the lengthy hearing, board chairman Paul Hudgins and member David Jones said their minds are not made up about the issue, and chastised Bowen and other residents who had speculated otherwise in recent days on social media. Many residents had expected a vote Tuesday, in part because of comments Hudgins made during a Nov. 22 meeting that he regretted the statue could not just be left "like it sits" because it is "under attack."

During the same meeting, member Mike Walls said anti-monument sentiment is "the reason why we've got to do what we've got to do."

That threat of action, though, is what has energized a diverse and growing group of opponents who otherwise might never have spoken up, said Crowley, who helped stage the Saturday strategy session.

"I'm hopeful that they come to some different decision and that they don't decide to move forward," she said Wednesday morning. "But if nothing else, this bought time for greater public awareness and time for organizing."

VIRGINIA

Youngkin promises to pay back 'unjust' fines for covid shutdown violations

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

RICHMOND — Gov. Glenn Youngkin vowed on Tuesday to reimburse businesses and individuals who paid "unjust" fines for violating state coronavirus restrictions, a move that comes as fellow Republicans have turned a shutdown-defying grilled cheese eatery into a cause celebre.

Youngkin issued an executive order directing various agencies, boards and commissions to report any fines, fees and suspensions for violations of restrictions imposed under his predecessor, Democrat Ralph Northam.

Youngkin also announced that he will make two related proposals in the budget amendments he is scheduled to introduce Dec. 15. One would direct agencies to stop collection and enforcement actions. The other would have the state develop a process for reimbursing businesses and individuals "who paid unjust COVID-19 fines and fees."

His office specified that the budget language will not apply to violations of health and safety rules for facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes.

"The fact that businesses are still dealing with COVID-19 related penalties and fines is infuriating. Livelihoods are on the line," Youngkin said in a statement. "While we can't undo the damage done during the Northam administration, we are taking action going forward to end COVID-era draconian overreach."

Youngkin made the announcement four days after an arm of his administration — the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) — executed a search warrant against Gourmeltz, a Spotsylvania County restaurant accused of selling liquor without a license.

Youngkin's announcement did not specifically reference Gourmeltz, and Youngkin spokeswoman Macaulay Porter declined to say whether there was any connection between the restaurant and his action Tuesday. Porter said she had no information on how many businesses or individuals have been penalized for violating the pandemic restrictions.

Gourmeltz's license was suspended for 90 days by a circuit court judge last month as an outgrowth of enforcement measures that started under Northam over the restaurant's defiance of pandemic-related health restrictions.



STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former spokeswoman for Ralph Northam (D), seen as governor, said he "made Virginia one of the safest states" amid the pandemic.

Youngkin has faced criticism from some conservatives for ABC's enforcement action against Gourmeltz, with some Republicans flocking to the restaurant as agents conducted their search.

"It's time we unite and stand against the communist agenda," state Sen. Amanda F. Chase (R-Chesterfield) tweeted in support of Gourmeltz owner Matt Strickland.

Calling the restrictions unconstitutional, Strickland is seeking to parlay his battle with the state into a seat in the Virginia Senate, running for the Republican nomination next year. "Through his fight against the tyrannical government, Matt realized a void in Virginia politics," his campaign

"The fact that businesses are still dealing with COVID-19 related penalties and fines is infuriating."

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R), declaring his plan to reimburse those fined for violating covid restrictions

website says. "None of his elected officials stood beside him in his fight against Northam and the overreaching mandates; they were silent on the issue."

Chase, the self-described "Trump in heels" who was a key surrogate for Youngkin last year, tried to prompt Youngkin to come to Strickland's aid in the aftermath of the ABC search.

"This would be a great opportunity for Governor Youngkin to step in and show the difference between the tyrannical blue leadership of the past and the new red leadership of the present," Chase tweeted Monday. "The people really want to hear from him on this."

After Youngkin's action Tuesday, Chase turned sharply critical of the governor because he'd chosen Del. Tara Durant (R-Stafford), Strickland's rival for their party's Senate nomination, to carry the legislation.

"Wait. So you're going to 'help' the veteran owned business owner Matt Strickland whose business just got unconstitutionally raided by ABC by giving a supposed legislative 'fix' to his primary opponent," Chase tweeted. "Why did you pick Strickland's opponent to carry the bill? That's low."

Meanwhile, Youngkin's swipe at Northam drew pushback from the Democrat's former spokeswoman, Alena Yarmosky.

"Governor Northam made Virginia one of the safest states in the nation during the height of COVID-19," Yarmosky wrote in a text message to The Washington Post, adding that the state was among the top 10 in coronavirus vaccinations and twice won CNBC's "Top State for Business" ranking during the pandemic. "I understand Governor Youngkin is just tuning back into Virginia, but he's been in office an entire year. I'd recommend he focus on his own administration."

VIRGINIA

Another employee warned Walmart about shooter's behavior, suit claims

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

A Walmart employee who survived a shooting that killed six colleagues at a Virginia store last month says in a new lawsuit that he complained to management that the gunman, a supervisor, had harassed him before the attack and exhibited threatening behavior.

John Kelly is at least the third employee of the store in Chesapeake, Va., to say Walmart staff had been warned about problems with Andre Bing before Bing opened fire on employees two nights before Thanksgiving then took his own life.

Kelly, who works as an overnight stocker, claims in his lawsuit that Bing was his supervisor and had badgered him since the start of his employment at the Walmart in August 2022. At one point before the shooting, Kelly alleged in the



MIKE CAUDILL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At least three employees of this Walmart in Chesapeake, Va., said they had flagged the supervisor's behavior to staff.

lawsuit, Bing told him: "I don't care how big you are. I have something to take care of that."

Kelly is seeking $50 million as part of a legal action claiming that Walmart negligently hired and kept Bing on staff despite warning signs that he could be violent, and that he had exhibited troubling behavior toward other employees.

The suit is the second against Walmart over the shooting. Another employee, Donya Prioleau, who is represented by the same law firm as Kelly, filed a suit making similar claims in Chesapeake Circuit Court late last month. She claimed her mother had reported Bing to management and told them her daughter feared for her safety because of him.

Randy Hargrove, a Walmart spokesman, said in a statement that the chain is "heartbroken" by the shooting but would not immediately comment on the lawsuits.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to our associates and everyone impacted, including those who were injured," Hargrove said. "We are focused on supporting all our associates with significant resources, including counseling. We are reviewing the Complaints and will be responding as appropriate with the court."

James Credle, another employee, also said in an interview that he had complained to staff about Bing.

Echoing Prioleau's lawsuit, Kelly's suit claims Bing had a vendetta against some employees and told colleagues he would retaliate if he were fired, saying "people will remember my name." Both lawsuits also claim Bing was disciplined by Walmart and had been demoted for his interactions with other employees, before eventually being reinstated as a team lead.

"Mr. Bing demonstrated a pattern of disturbing behavior leading up to the shooting, which Walmart knew, or should have known," both lawsuits claim.

Kelly was in the Walmart break room on the night of Nov. 22 when Bing walked in and began firing, according to his lawsuit. Kelly claims he ran out of the break room "as fast as he could" and fell, injuring his ankle.

Police have not offered a motive for the shooting, but they have released a "death note" in which Bing laid out grievances with several colleagues. Police said none of the people named in the note were people who were shot by Bing.

Killed in the shooting were Randy Blevins, 70; Fernando "Jesus" Chavez-Barron, 16; Lorenzo Gamble, 43; Tyneka Johnson, 22; Brian Pendleton, 39; and Kellie Pyle, 52.

THERESA VARGAS

Exhausted parents are sick of their kids coming home sick

VARGAS FROM B1

healthy. That was the year when covid-19 protocols in schools were a shifting mess. At one school, a student testing positive might send an entire class into quarantine but not lead to a sibling being required to stay home. Some things made no sense at the time, but by then, parents had grown used to fumbling in the dark.

That was the year of uncertainty, and it had followed the year of disorientation.

This year was supposed to bring more stability. Children have been vaccinated. Mask mandates have been lifted. Employers have ordered people back into the office. This was supposed to be the year of normal-ish-ness.

Turns out, this is the year of grossness.

It is the year of snotty noses, barking coughs and middle-of-the-night vomiting. It is the year in which parents have watched an earache turn into a multi-symptom, multiweek ordeal. It is the year that has seen illnesses travel between family members, and once everyone recovers, a sniffle starts that process over again.

“I am so sick of people in my house getting sick,” Alex Cain posted earlier this week on a social media page for parents in Virginia. “It’s been 6 weeks of runny noses, coughing, and goopy eyes. Just here to commiserate.”

That’s all it took for the commiserating to commence, and for the Northern Virginia mother of two (who agreed to let me share her post with you) to see she was far from alone. “Same,” one parent after another replied.

In recent weeks, media outlets have published lists of potential gifts to give during the holidays. While reading through them, I’ve found myself replaying conversations I’ve had with other parents and thinking about what we all really want: Off this roller coaster of sickness.

My colleagues wrote last week about how the spike in viral infections — the flu, RSV, covid-19 and the common cold — have caused parents to find drugstore aisles cleared of children’s medications. The demand for all those grape and bubble-gum flavored pain relievers and fever reducers has outpaced the supply, and that has left parents frustrated, children hurting and pediatricians worried.

“It’s a huge problem,” Kristina Powell, the president of the Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is quoted as saying in that article. “ . . . This is going to be a long fall and winter of viral infections.”

If you’re not a parent and haven’t stood in front of those empty shelves, it would be easy for you to not realize what’s happening inside the homes of your neighbors and colleagues with children. Children have always gotten sick at day cares and schools. But what makes this time unique is that children keep getting sick, and their parents are now having to take care of them while trying to meet the demands of workplaces that are pushing for a post-pandemic norm.

Bosses want shifts and seats filled. That’s understandable. But if employers don’t allow for some workplace flexibility — especially when public health experts are describing unprecedented challenges — talented, hard-working parents stand to be pushed from the workforce.

A Washington Post article that ran in November told of how workplace absences for child-care reasons rose to a concerning height the month before: “More than 100,000 Americans missed work last month because of child-care problems, an all-time high that’s surprisingly even greater than during the height of the pandemic, according to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.”

Many companies have demanded people return to the office. But trust me, employers, if you saw what parents were dealing with at home, you wouldn’t want them to come into the office some weeks.

People have proved they can be productive working from home — even while caring for sick family members — and employers who can afford to extend that grace to employees should continue to do so. Allowing workplace flexibility not only enables employees to take care of their family’s needs, it also allows them to keep their colleagues healthy. It also keeps them from feeling pressured to send their children back to school before they are well, which just continues the cycle of illnesses.

My sons are still in elementary school and when the school year started, I put their masks on lanyards, placed them around their necks and gave them the power to choose when they wanted to wear them. My younger son has worn his every day at school, and my older son wears his only if he is in crowded situations, in the company of someone who has health vulnerabilities or notices someone near him appears sick.

Even so, my family has not escaped the viruses being passed around. We have gone through several rounds of illnesses this year. The few days I have taken off from work since the beginning of the school year have not been for vacation. They have been because either one of my children or I fell miserably sick.

The morning after I heard that sniffle from the back seat, my son woke up snotty. He tested negative for the coronavirus and didn’t show signs of any serious illness: no fever, no chills, no loss of appetite. He is prone to allergies, so I suspected that was causing his runny nose. As a precaution, I kept him out of school until he was symptom free.

After a few days of him feeling better, I started to feel confident (and lucky) that the rest of us had escaped getting sick this time.

Then I heard it: sniff.

The sound had come from his younger brother.



BILL O’LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Empty shelves at Brookville Pharmacy in Chevy Chase, Md., after a spike in respiratory illness has caused a shortage of children’s liquid acetaminophen and ibuprofen, stressing parents.

Mask mandates have been lifted. Employers have ordered people back into the office. This was supposed to be the year of normal-ish-ness. Turns out, this is the year of grossness.

MARYLAND

Tests show students are falling behind in math, improving in language arts

BY NICOLE ASBURY

Maryland students are reaching pre-pandemic levels in English language arts but falling several points behind in mathematics, according to preliminary results from the state’s assessment released Tuesday.

The state tests, known as the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), were taken by students in the spring. The results provide an update on how the state’s students progressed about a year after schools reopened following remote learning during the beginning of the pandemic. State officials compared the results released Tuesday with tests administered in 2019 and a shortened state exam administered in the fall of 2021.

In mathematics, most grade levels showed improvement when compared with the fall of 2021 assessments, except sixth-graders. Twenty-one percent of the state’s sixth-graders were proficient in math then, but the proficiency rate dropped to 18 percent on the spring of 2022 test. In 2019, 30 percent of sixth-graders were proficient.

“Virtual learning did a number on math, and the way math instruction is delivered effectively was very difficult to do in a virtual state,” State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury said to state board members after the results were released. He warned that there would be “a long road to recovery” to even pre-pandemic levels.

Most students improved in English language arts compared with the fall of 2021 test results. Sixth-grade scores again declined, as did scores for 10th-grade students. However, a higher percentage of both sixth-graders and 10th-graders were proficient compared with 2019’s results. In the case of 10th-graders, 53 percent were proficient in spring of 2022, though 57 percent were proficient in fall of 2021. In 2019, 43 percent of 10th-graders were considered proficient.

Forty-four percent of sixth-graders were considered proficient in English language arts based on the spring’s results, but 53 percent were proficient last fall. In 2019, 41 percent of sixth-grade students were proficient.

The data overall indicated that Maryland students were improving in English language arts at a quicker rate than they were in mathematics, which is similar to national trends, Choudhury said.

State officials cautioned that the fall of 2021 test scores were from a shortened test. Math tests were whittled down to 80 minutes from roughly 160 minutes, and the English exams were 140 minutes — down from 280 minutes. They also noted that the data released Tuesday was preliminary. Final results — including breakdowns by student group and school system — will be released in January. Then, state officials said, they would dig into more of the data’s trends.

Choudhury added that overall, Maryland students are showing improvements but not performing at the pace of other states. He noted that Maryland’s average math and reading scores from the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) — known as “the nation’s report card” — have decreased since 2013. The state’s fourth-grade students scored behind the national average in math and reading, on NAEP scores released in October. Eighth-graders scored below the national average in math but were near the national average in reading.

“Our students are not performing at the pace other states are, so we have a lot of work to do to raise our game,” Choudhury said. He added that some states didn’t have “the per-pupil investments that we’re making in Maryland,” referencing the Blueprint for Maryland Future — a landmark education bill that will funnel billions into the state’s public schools over the next decade. “There’s no reason why we can’t be a model coming out of the Blueprint over the next five to 10 years.”

The state education board on Tuesday also viewed results from the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, a test administered to all incoming kindergarten students at the beginning of the school year. The test measures skills that include language and literacy, mathematics, physical well-being and social foundations.

Scores improved slightly this year — with 42 percent of kindergartner students “demonstrating readiness.” During the 2021-2022 school year, 40 percent of students demonstrated readiness.

Results were further reported by race, socioeconomic status and other demographics. Most students improved, though English learners and students with disabilities received the same scores as they did during the 2021-2022 school year. Ten percent of English learners demonstrated readiness, and 17 percent of students with disabilities demonstrated readiness.

The state also released results from its school climate survey, which measures students’ and educators’ perception of the environment at schools. The survey measured several areas, including perceptions of physical and emotional safety, respect for diversity, and behavioral and academic supports. Often, educators’ had a more favorable perception of school environments than students did, results showed. Students’ perception of the upkeep and cleanliness of school buildings received the lowest score. Their perception of physical safety at school also received a low score of 3.6 out of 10 points.

Maryland school systems will receive school-level survey results.

THE DISTRICT

D.C. attorney general files suit against Amazon, alleging stolen driver tips

BY KARINA ELWOOD

D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine on Wednesday announced that his office had filed a consumer protection lawsuit against Amazon, alleging that the e-commerce giant stole tips from drivers and deceived consumers about the tipping model.

The lawsuit alleges that Amazon used deceptive methods to lead consumers to believe that tip money went directly to drivers, when it actually was being used to subsidize wages. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

“Workers in the District of Columbia and throughout our country are too often taken advantage of and not paid their hard-earned wages,” Racine said in a statement. “What’s more, consumers need to know where their tips are going. This suit is about providing workers the tips they are owed and telling consumers the truth. Amazon, one of the world’s wealthiest companies, certainly does not need to take tips that belong to workers.”



SUSAN WALSH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karl A. Racine, D.C.’s attorney general, is suing Amazon over a tipping policy that he says deceived consumers and workers.

The lawsuit concerns Amazon Flex, a service launched in 2015 that offers quick deliveries. When it was launched, the company encouraged consumers to tip delivery drivers and assured that 100 percent of the tip would go to the drivers.

According to the lawsuit, in 2016, Amazon changed the model so drivers could no longer see the tip amounts from each delivery, and a large portion of the tips were instead used to pay wages already promised to the drivers. The lawsuit further alleges that the company deceived consumers and workers about the model by hiding the reality of the tip policy.

An Amazon spokesperson said in an email that the lawsuit was without merit, adding that the company had changed its model in 2019 and that it had a compensation framework that ensures D.C. drivers earn more than the District’s minimum wage.

In 2021, Amazon reimbursed the Amazon Flex drivers as part of a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and agreed to a nationwide injunction that prohibits the company from changing the way driver tips are handled without notifying drivers in advance.

“Nothing is more important to us than customer trust. This lawsuit involves a practice we changed three years ago and is without merit — all of the customer tips at issue were already paid to drivers as part of a settlement last year with the FTC,” Amazon spokeswoman Maria Boschetti said in a statement Wednesday.

Racine argued that the company has not yet been held accountable for “consumer harm” violations of D.C.’s Consumer Protection Procedures Act (CPPA), which prohibits deceptive and unfair business practices, such as misleading consumers.

The attorney general’s office is seeking civil penalties for each violation of the CPPA, payment to the District for costs of the case and a court order to ensure that the company cannot engage in the practice again.

This is the second lawsuit Racine has filed against the industry giant. In 2021, his office filed an antitrust complaint against the company, alleging that Amazon held monopoly power that resulted in higher prices for consumers. A D.C. Superior Court judge dismissed the antitrust suit earlier this year.

In April, the OAG and the U.S. Department of Justice both urged the court to reconsider its dismissal of the antitrust lawsuit against Amazon. Then in August, the Office of the Attorney General filed a notice of appeal. The city and Amazon must submit their arguments to the D.C. Court of Appeals by the end of January before the case moves forward.

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OBITUARIES

JIM STEWART, 92

Stax label co-founder helped launch trailblazers of soul

BY HARRISON SMITH

Jim Stewart, a part-time fiddle player who became a soul music hitmaker as the co-founder of Stax Records, the trailblazing Memphis label that helped launch the careers of 1960s and '70s artists including Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Sam & Dave and the Staple Singers, died Dec. 5 at a hospital in Memphis. He was 92.

His death was confirmed by Tim Sampson, a spokesman for the Soulsville Foundation, which operates the Stax Museum of American Soul Music in Memphis. He said Mr. Stewart had been ill but did not cite a specific cause.

As an executive, producer and engineer, Mr. Stewart was a driving force behind the Tennessee music company, which trailed only Motown Records as the country's top soul label. Its records came to define the "Memphis sound," a sultry fusion of Southern soul, blues and gospel epitomized by Stax artists including Redding, Wilson Pickett, Rufus and Carla Thomas, and the label's house band, Booker T. & the M.G.'s.

Mr. Stewart later acknowledged that he "knew nothing" about music publishing, copyright issues or the mechanics of how to get a record pressed when he started the label in 1957. But he loved country music — especially the Western swing of Texas fiddler Bob Wills, whom he emulated while playing in bands — and hoped to replicate the success of Memphis producer Sam Phillips, the Sun Records founder who produced recordings by Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison.

Working out of his wife's uncle's two-car garage, Mr. Stewart recorded country and rockabilly songs with backing from his older sister Estelle Axton, who joined him as a co-founder. But after they moved the company into a former movie theater on the south side of Memphis in 1960, he began recording R&B songs by local musicians, embracing soul music in full after cutting a regional hit, "Cause I Love You," by Memphis DJ Rufus Thomas and his teenage daughter Carla.

"It was like a blind man who suddenly gained his sight," Mr. Stewart later recalled. "You don't want to go back; you don't even look back." Or as he put it in an interview for "Respect Yourself," a 2007 PBS documentary that was later adapted into a book by



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

From left, Otis Redding, Jim Stewart, Carla Thomas, Rufus Thomas and Booker T. Jones in 1967.

Robert Gordon: "The wind blew in, and we were smart enough not to fight it."

Over the next 15 years, the label released more than 160 songs on the Billboard Hot 100 pop chart and 243 on the R&B chart, according to the Stax Museum. The company also became known as a haven for racial integration in the segregated South: Black and White musicians performed together in bands including the Bar-Kays and the M.G.'s while Mr. Stewart, who was White, worked with Black business partners including Al Bell, the company's head of promotions, who eventually became co-owner.

"The spirit that came from Jim and his sister Estelle Axton allowed all of us, Black and White, to . . . come into the doors of Stax, where you had freedom, you had harmony, you had people working together," Bell said in an interview for "Respect Yourself."

Mr. Stewart recalled that even as Black artists recorded Top 10 hits at Stax's studio, they were unable to join him at Whites-only hotels and restaurants down the street. "When [Atlantic Records executive] Jerry Wexler came to Memphis back in 1961 to meet Carla and Rufus, we had to sneak them into one of the local hotels through the service entrance," he told the Miami Herald. "I was never more embarrassed in my life."

Although he was best known as an executive, Mr. Stewart produced 1960s hits including Carla Thomas's "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)" and Rufus Thomas's "Walking the Dog," which both reached No. 10 on the pop chart, as well as Sam & Dave's "Hold On, I'm Comin'," which topped the R&B chart.

He was also in the studio when blues guitarist Johnny Jenkins arrived for a 1962 recording session accompanied by Redding, then a relatively unknown singer who was working as Jenkins's driver. After Jenkins recorded a few songs, Redding pleaded to sing a couple of his own, then stunned Mr. Stewart with his performance of the torch song "These Arms of Mine," according to Mark Ribowsky's book "Dreams to Remember: Otis Redding, Stax Records, and the Transformation of Southern Soul."

"That's it! That's it! Where is everybody! We gotta get this on tape!" said Mr. Stewart, who ensured that the track was recorded (it eventually sold 800,000 copies) and signed Redding to a record deal, five years before the musician was killed in a plane crash at age 26.

Redding's death was a major setback for Stax, which struggled financially before filing for bankruptcy in 1975 and collapsing altogether. Mr. Stewart, who had sold his remaining stake in the company a few years earlier, was devastated by the end of the company and receded from public view, working only occasionally as a producer.

"He won't talk to anybody," Axton told the Memphis Commercial Appeal in 1989. "He was hurt."

Mr. Stewart was enshrined in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002, cited as "the creator of the ultimate R&B label." He missed the induction ceremony but was praised at the event by longtime Stax musicians including guitarist Steve Cropper, who performed with the M.G.'s and was there in the studio when Mr. Stewart first heard Redding sing. "Jim stayed up hour after hour," he recalled, "making sure every artist at Stax got every penny that was due them."

James Frank Stewart was born in the Tennessee farming town of Middleton, 70 miles east of Memphis, on July 29, 1930. His mother was a homemaker, and his father was a bricklayer and farmer who encouraged his son's interest in music, giving Mr. Stewart a guitar when he was 10. Mr. Stewart soon switched to the fiddle, playing in country bands after graduating from high school and moving to Memphis.

He served for two years in the Army and returned home to study business at Memphis State College, now the University of Memphis, eventually landing a job at Union Planters National Bank. While working in the bond department he recorded music through his fledgling label, which was initially given the Sputnik-era name of Satellite Records.

Decades later, he told the Commercial Appeal that his oldest sister, Axton, "deserves all the credit for Stax Records. Because she borrowed money, she mortgaged her home, in order for us to start a record company. Without that . . . this would never have happened." (Axton died in 2004.)



ADRIAN SAINZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stax Records co-founder Jim Stewart, center, poses with friends and students of the Stax Music Academy in Memphis on April 29, 2013. Stax trailed only Motown Records as the top soul label.

"That's it! That's it! Where is everybody! We gotta get this on tape!"

Jim Stewart, reacting to Otis Redding's performance of "These Arms of Mine" in 1962. Mr. Stewart signed Redding, who was working as blues guitarist Johnny Jenkins' driver, to a record deal.

When the siblings rented the former Capitol movie theater in Memphis, they turned the concession stand into a record store, generating crucial income in the company's early days.

They found talent as well as customers from the surrounding community: Isaac Hayes, the singer-songwriter who became known for recording the theme song to the 1971 movie "Shaft," was a son of area sharecroppers, while songwriter David Porter worked at a grocery store across the street and bandleader Booker T. Jones lived just a few blocks away.

Satellite Records changed its name after releasing the Mar-Keys' 1961 single "Last Night," an instrumental that reached No. 3 on the pop chart and attracted the attention of another Satellite Records in California. Mr. Stewart and his sister resolved the threat of a lawsuit by giving their company the name Stax, which combined the first two letters of their surnames and suggested "stacks" of vinyl records.

The label commanded a national audience after signing a distribution deal with Atlantic Records, but Mr. Stewart was horrified to realize that he "had not read the fine print," as he put it, and had failed to notice a clause that gave Atlantic the rights to Stax's masters, one of its biggest assets. Gordon, the "Respect Yourself" author, described the deal as "corporate homicide — polite, sterile, and deadly."

Stax was sold to the conglomerate Gulf and Western in 1968, and Mr. Stewart helped buy it back before selling his share in 1972, after his partner Bell signed a new distribution deal with CBS Records. The label was relaunched under Concord Records in 2006.

Mr. Stewart's wife of more than 60 years, the former Evelyn White, died in 2020. Survivors include three children, Lori Stewart, Shannon Stewart and Jeff Stewart, and two grandchildren.

"Everything we did at Stax was a team effort," Mr. Stewart told the Los Angeles Times in 1991. "I think my contribution was in being able to put the right combination of people together creatively. We didn't know at the time we were developing a sound. There was never an idea that we were going to be different or make a new sound. We just did what we felt was right at the time for a particular record and song."

DOUG WONG, 58

Washington Post editor was 'unflagging' in breaking news role

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

Doug Wong, a Washington Post journalist who edited breaking news stories on a wide array of subjects including politics, natural disasters, wars and criminal justice, died Dec. 3 at a hotel in Orlando while on vacation. He was 58 and a District resident.

A spokeswoman for the Orange County (Fla.) Medical Examiner's Office said the cause was hypertensive cardiovascular disease.

Mr. Wong, who initially studied engineering in college and described himself as "kind of a techie," helped install new pagination systems early in his journalism career. He also worked as a copy editor and business editor at newspapers in Texas and Missouri before being hired by The Post in 2011.

In a statement, Executive Editor Sally Buzbee and Mr. Wong's supervisor, Anne Bartlett, described Mr. Wong as a "crucial member of the staff [who] was unrelenting about making sure that Post stories met the highest standards. He also went out of his way to mentor less experienced reporters and editors.

"His teammates knew that they could count on Doug to work any shift, any time," they wrote, adding he was "unflagging."

Panfilo "Ponch" Garcia, an editor who worked with Mr. Wong at The Post and the Austin American-Statesman, recalled Mr. Wong as a "gregarious colleague who built friendships across the newsroom with his uplifting laugh and his genuine interest in the lives of his co-workers and their families, whether it was in the office on deadline or at a Halloween party dressed as [President Lyndon B. Johnson]. . . . He made both work and work life better."

Garcia noted that Mr. Wong liked to treat groups of close friends to elaborate dinners at Chinese restaurants, with Mr. Wong "doing all the ordering and playing the role of maître d', making sure everyone was enjoying the meal and having a good time. . . . He didn't bat an eye at spending a small fortune to see his friends happy."

Douglas Frank Wong Jr. was born in Houston on Sept. 24, 1964, to Chinese immigrant parents who owned and operated American-style restaurants and grocery stores.

He was a 1989 communications graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, then spent 11 years at the Waco Tribune-Herald, starting as a night police and religion reporter and later working as a copy editor and assistant news editor.

He then worked at the Houston Chronicle and American-Statesman before serving as business copy chief and then national wire editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from 2005 to 2011.

Mr. Wong was an amateur nature photographer specializing in flowers and birds. He was a frequent visitor to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., and, last year, he wrote about Conowingo Dam north of Baltimore on the Susquehanna River as an ideal spot to take pictures of bald eagles. Several years ago, he created a calendar of his nature pictures for a wide circle of friends.

He had no immediate survivors.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Doug Wong in The Post's newsroom in 2019 with the Washington Nationals' World Series trophy. His three-decade career included stints at papers in Texas and St. Louis before he joined The Post in 2011.

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DEATH NOTICE

AREY



VIRGINIA L. AREY
November 18, 1939-November 22, 2022
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Virginia Louise Arey on November 22, 2022 at the age of 83. Daughter of the late William and Pauline Fletcher, beloved wife of the late Gordon H. Arey, Sr., sister to Barbara Snider, mother to Judith Wrench, Gordon Arey, Jr. (Patricia Arey), and William Martin Arey (Kathryn Paolucci). She leaves behind seven grandchildren, Brigitte Wrench, Michelle Arey, Melissa Arey, Chelsea Arey, Joseph Wrench and Kyle Arey and several nieces and nephews.

Virginia was born and raised in Bethesda, MD. She attended Bethesda Chevy Chase High School and Benjamin Franklin University. After high school, she became a lifelong resident of the Woodside area in Silver Spring, MD.

Virginia followed her father as president and owner of William Fletcher Roofing Co., in Bethesda, MD, until her retirement. She volunteered her time and was a past president of the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary. She loved the beach and spending time with family and friends at her condo in Bethany Beach, traveling, music and dancing and, of course, her cats.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022, 11 a.m. at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, 10123 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895. A reception/lunch will be held immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations made in Virginia's memory to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001 (jwrench0512@yahoo.com) or Fight For Children, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036.

DEATH NOTICE

HUT





MARGARET WILNER HUT
Margaret Wilner Hut, 76, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and sister, died December 3, 2022, after a long battle with heart failure, COPD and dementia.

A lifelong Washingtonian, Margaret was born March 22, 1946, to Washington natives Amy and Dr. Paul Wilner. She was the middle of three siblings whose brothers supported her in every way and to whom she remained close all her life. She adored her parents and followed their guidance to put family first always.

A two-time "Quaker," Margaret attended the Sidwell Friends School and then migrated up the I-95 corridor to attend the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, she majored in political science (while happily eking out a passing grade in biology and gym) and was a member of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She was a proud alum of both schools, especially Friends, where she eventually sent her three kids and volunteered for nearly 20 years.

At Penn, Margaret began dating Steve Hut in their junior year. They married seven months after graduation in 1968; the marriage lasted almost 54 years and was a loyal and loving partnership, with three children and three grandchildren.

Margaret poured her energy first and foremost into running a home for her family, with daily home-cooked dinners, lots of laughter, attendance at school events, and unending advocacy and support for her kids. She instilled in them a drive to nurture their abilities and pursue career paths and activities that mattered to them, while also reminding them not to take things too seriously. She was especially delighted when she became a grandmother, and she showered her grandkids with attention and affection. She also made and maintained lifelong friends who treasured her self-deprecating wit, caring nature and passion for things she believed in.

Margaret balanced her family and social life with a career in journalism, managing and editing two D.C.-area parenting publications. In 1984 she joined Potomac Children, which she later owned and operated for many years before its merger with Washington Parent, where she served as the editor until her retirement. In her spare moments, she was a fan of Washington sports teams (she always had a soft spot for the underdog), Star Trek, genealogy (she was fascinated by her roots and curated the family tree), Grover Monster and the British monarchy (she wrote to the Queen as an 11-year-old, reportedly hoping the Queen would find her a pen pal, and received a response from a lady-in-waiting – but no pen pal; Margaret proudly displayed the return letter for years in her powder room). She avidly followed news and politics and supported several environmental causes, an affinity born out of her fondness for animals and nature.

Margaret was a fan of hot weather and the rare lover of Washington summers. She always looked forward to numerous trips each year to her home in Bethany Beach, Delaware – most of all when the whole family was able to gather there.

Margaret is survived by Steve; children Nick, Chris (Yvonne Schindler) and Katie (Ben Levy); grandchildren Charlie and Sasha Levy and Mona Friedland; brothers John Wilner and Richard Wilner and their wives Carol and Sue (and five nieces and nephews); in-laws and their children; and numerous closely connected cousins and their families.

A celebration of life is being planned for early spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Sidwell Friends School or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

JOSEPH

DR. GEORGE JOSEPH

Dr. George Joseph passed away peacefully in his home on December 4, 2022 at the age of 93. His last days were spent visiting with friends, loved ones and watching his beloved game of soccer in the matches of the World Cup.

Born December 25, 1928 in Brashov, Romania, Gyuri, as he was called by everyone who knew him, was a holocaust survivor, clinical associate professor in psychiatry at George Washington University, and part of the staff of Walter Reed Army Medical Center until his retirement at the age of 81. He practiced in Romania, Israel and South Africa before coming to the US in 1963 to build a life in the greater Washington DC area.

Gyuri was an avid reader and understood history as well as most scholars. His incredible warmth and love permeated his interactions with friends and family, infused with clarity and depth through his final days. He loved playing bridge, listening to classical music, attending the opera and delighting in any all things related to his family.

As a young man, he was a talented swimmer and skier, loved riding his bike, and walking in nature. He was an enthusiastic cook and host, tour guide of his adopted hometown of DC and world-wide traveler. Never losing his intense curiosity, he even took a driving tour through Europe with his wife at the age of 89. He also self-published three books in his 80's which were loosely based on his early life experiences.

He would define his life in a word: courage. He did not let fear stop him – from moving forward, taking chances, and reaping the rewards of a life lived in the constant pursuit of knowledge and authentic personal relationships. He was uniquely proud of his courage in opening his private practice in Washington DC as a then recent immigrant in 1968. After living through WW2 in Romania as a young Jewish boy, becoming a doctor and eventually leaving and finding his way to Israel where he would meet his wife Miriam (who he decided he would marry after knowing her for just 2 and ½ hours), he did not let fear hold him back and instead chose to come to the US to build a life. And through all he saw and experienced, he never lost his faith in himself and his belief in hope.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam, of 61 years, his three children Mark, Michelle and Susan and their spouses Keisha, Eric and Marc. In addition, his sister Flora, nieces Limor and Yael Joseph and nephew Yann Balu. In addition, he leaves six grandchildren – Rachel, Ben, Dylan, Mikayla, Devin and Miles. Services private.

REESE



GEORGE KENNETH REESE JR. (Age 84)
George K, Reese, Jr., 84, of Potomac, Maryland passed away on December 2, 2022 in Bethesda from complications due to Parkinson's.

George was born on March 13, 1938 to Bernice (Krueger) and George Reese in Chicago, IL. A proud Chicago native, he grew up in Oak Park and attended Ascension School and Quigley Prep Seminary before moving with his family to Chevy Chase, MD in 1955. He loved taking the "L" to watch his beloved Cubs from the outfield bleachers. After high school, George attended Georgetown University ('59) which was the source of many life-long friendships. While at Georgetown, he served as president of the Washington Club, a social club whose members had a "reputation of being enthusiastic party goers and excellent socialites." George met Patricia Wenger, of Bethesda, at a wedding in 1959 and they were married in 1961 and eventually moved to Potomac where they raised their six children. They were married for 61 years and spent most summers in Bethany Beach, DE where they enjoyed playing golf and tennis with an exceptional group of friends. They were active parishioners at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Rockville and St. Ann's in Bethany Beach. Over the years George poured his time into the community as a member of the Knights of Columbus, a commissioner for South Bethany Beach, co-founder of Bayside Tennis Club in Bethany Beach and the Shepherd Foundation as well as a coach for countless CYO basketball teams for his children. One of his lasting legacies, was co-founding the Woods Academy in 1975 and serving as its first president of the board. After graduating from Georgetown, he entered the insurance business with Connecticut Mutual. He was eventually promoted to General Agent and managed the Washington, DC office from 1971 until 1988. George helped thousands of families and businesses with their financial planning needs during his career and developed countless friendships. Later in his career, he launched a pension administration business, CompDesign, followed by a benefit administration business, FlexAmerica with two of his children. He spent the remainder of his career working with former customers and never truly retired from the insurance business saying, "insurance agents don't die, they just fade away". George will be remembered for his caring and positive attitude toward life. He was a devout Catholic and was always generous with his time and humor. A tenacious competitor, he could often be found on the tennis court or golf course. Even in the later stages of Parkinson's he was kind and humble to his caregivers and believed he could beat the disease and get back on the golf course.

He is survived by his wife Patricia of 61 years and sister Nora McGlaughlin of Bethesda, MD; his five children, Kathy (Mike) Laing of Richmond, VA, Suzanne (Paul) Barry of Boston MA, Michelle (Eric) Levey of Marriottsville, MD; George, III (Mary Jane) of Bethesda, MD and Tricia Reese and Craig (Day) of Washington DC; 21 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Tracy and brother Mike.

Relatives and friends are invited on Tuesday, December 13 to St Raphael's Catholic Church in Rockville, MD. A visitation will start at 12:00 p.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:30 p.m. An internment service will be held at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD following the mass. In Lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation at www.parkinsons.org
Please Sign family guest book at:
www.DeVolFuneralHome.com

IN MEMORIAM

WEBSTER



MARY NATALIA BROWN WEBSTER
12/8/1922 - 5/23/1995
In Loving Memory on the 100th Anniversary of your birth. Things have not been (nor will they ever be) the same. Your Great Grandies weren't born and didn't see the Red Cardinal sitting on your gate when your cortege drove by your house. But every time any one of us sees a Cardinal we know you're keeping your promise to always watch over us. Your love, your dedication to Nanny, and your hard work will always be remembered and appreciated.
Rest in Peace Our Queen.
Veronica, Sidney, Ronald F, Ronald E, Alexandra Natalia, (Cydni Christina, & Eddie, too)

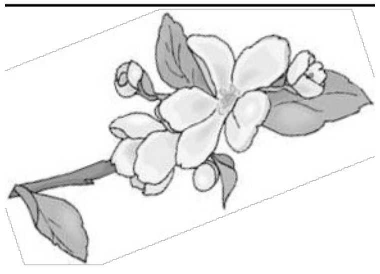


DEATH NOTICE

BATEMAN



JAMES CHRISTOPHER BATEMAN JR.
"Chris"
James Christopher "Chris" Bateman, Jr., 72, passed away peacefully at Southern Maryland Hospital Center on November 27, 2022. Born in Washington, DC to the late James (Sr.) and Dorthea Bateman, he enjoyed a 30+ year career as a cook at establishments including the Holiday Inn, Hotel Washington and the National Zoo in Washington, DC. Chris will be dearly missed by his wife Sandra, son James C. Bateman III, grandchildren as well as friends and relatives around the world. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022. 10 a.m. Viewing, 11 a.m. Service. Henson Valley Christian Church, 1900 Tucker Rd., Fort Washington, MD.



DEATH NOTICE

BRIDGMAN

EVELETH WILSON BRIDGMAN III
Eveleth Wilson Bridgman, III, "Evy", of Springfield, VA and formerly of West River, MD, died on December 3, 2022 from COVID. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Karen Stach Bridgman; his children, Michelle Bridgman and Ryan Bridgman; his step-mother, Elaine Bridgman; his siblings, Elizabeth Grimm, Anne Franke, Churchill Bridgman, Sally Cheston, Peter Bridgman and Ray Scott; and a gaggle of nieces and nephews. Evy is remembered most for his loyalty, generosity of spirit, genuine kindness and unconditional love. Visitation is on Friday, December 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory, Edgewater. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 10 at Christ Church, West River. Online condolences may be left for the family at:
www.KalasFuneralHomes.com

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

CHIPOURAS



THEODORE PETER CHIPOURAS
Dr. Theodore P Chipouras DDS, 87, dentist and native Washingtonian. Dr. Chipouras was an alum of Gonzaga ('53) and Georgetown University ('61,'03). After dental school, he was drafted into the Air Force. As a Captain, Dr. Chipouras was stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany ('61-'63). Lifelong member of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the Order of AHEPA. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 58 years, Mary Lambros Chipouras. Beloved father to Georgia (Paul) Munson, Joanna (Chris) Mantzuranis and grandfather to Evangelia Mantzuranis. He also leaves his first cousin, Katherine Patterson, as well as many other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Wednesday December 7, 2022 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Joseph Gawler's Sons. Funeral Services will be Thursday December 8, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD.

FEEMSTER

JULIA HODGES FEEMSTER
On Wednesday, November 23, 2022, our beloved aunt, sister and friend Julia Hodges Feemster ascended to Heaven to be with Jesus. She is survived by her sisters in law, Ruth, Anna and Annie Lee Hodges and their daughters, great nieces and nephews and great great nephews. A graveside memorial will be held at George Washington Cemetery, 9500 Riggs Road, Adelphi MD at 12 noon on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Arrangements by Marshall March's Funeral Home.

JEFFERSON

BROTHER EUGENE JEFFERSON
Eureka Lodge No. 5 F&AM PHA regret to inform you of his passing on November 29, 2022. Viewing 10 a.m., Service 11 a.m., December 9, 2022 at Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Benning Rd. NE, Washington, DC. No masonic funeral.
WM Robert E. Williams, Jr.
RWPGS Royce G. Daniels, Sec.

MAHON

JERRY M. MAHON
The officers and members of Plumbers Local No. 5 are regretfully notified of the death of Brother Jerry M. Mahon, of Woodbridge, VA, who passed away on November 22, 2022.
Terriea L. Smalls
Business Manager
#1329

MARRON

SANDY MARRON
Sandy Marron (nee Laken) on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at her home in Heritage Harbour, Annapolis, MD. Beloved wife of Douglas Marron. Mother of David Jones (Liz) of Owings Mills, MD and Dawn Conway (Marty) of Eldersburg, MD. Sister of Marilyn Laken, Asheville, NC. Also survived by seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. A graveside service and burial be held on Friday, December 9th at 12 Noon at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Annapolis, MD. Obituary details are available online at
www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com

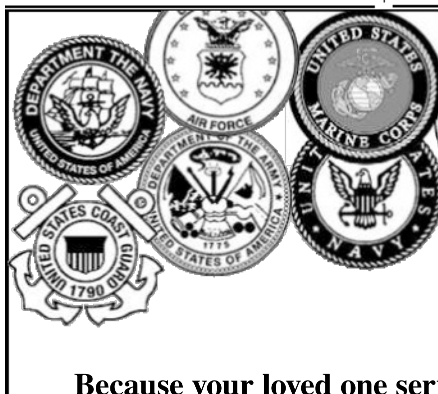
PIERRO

WESLEY D. PIERRO (Life Member)
The officers and members of Plumbers Local No. 5 are regretfully notified of the death of Brother Wesley D. Pierro, of Fredericksburg, VA, who passed away on November 29, 2022.
Terriea L. Smalls
Business Manager
#1330

POOLE



VICTOR RICARDO POOLE
Victor Ricardo Poole of Waldorf, MD passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Doretha Poole of 50 years; his sons Victor Poole, II and wife, Yakeisha Hines-Poole; and Marquett Poole and his wife, Shannetta Steward-Poole; daughter, Kim Gamble; 6 grandchildren that held a special place in his heart and a host of relatives and friends. The family will receive friends on Monday, December 12, 2022 at Hemingway Memorial AME Church from 10 a.m. until the funeral service at 11 a.m. Repast to follow at the Church. Flowers may be sent directly to the church on the day of the services.



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Military emblems are available with death notices and in-memoriams

To place a notice call **202-334-4122** or **800-627-1150**, **ext. 44122**

C0979 2x3

DEATH NOTICE

WALKER

SANDRA LEE SHER WALKER
Sandra Lee Sher Walker passed away on December 6, 2022. She is her survived by her beloved husband, Robert J. Walker; her devoted daughter, Elyse Adams (Joseph); and her two loving grandchildren, Jackson and Emily Adams of Waxhaw, NC. She is also survived by her sister, Susan Kaye (Harvey); her brother, Robert Sher (Nancy and children Torie and Joey); and many additional nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral services are to be held Friday, December 9, at 2:30 p.m. at Norbeck Memorial Park, 16225 Batchellors Forest Road, Olney, MD. The family will be sitting Shiva on Saturday, December 10 starting at 7 p.m. at the home of Susan and Harvey Kaye. Charitable contributions may be made to JSSA Hospice, World Central Kitchen, or to the charity of your choice.
www.sagelbloomfield.com

DEATH NOTICE

LONG



CORDIA MAE LONG
Cordia Mae Long, age 98, on November 16, 2022, mother of seven children, predeceased by Delores Paige Lawson and Shirley Paige, survived by Charlene Dwin Vaughn, Ronald Long, Donna Long Mazyck, Robert Long and Sylvia Long-Tolbert, 17 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and three great great-grandchildren. Celebration of life Friday, December 9, 2022, 10 a.m. viewing until 11 a.m. services at Hope Christian Church, 6251 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705. Services by Robinson Funeral. Friends can make donations to https://www.alzheimersresearchfoundation in the name of Cordia M. Long.

ROOK



LILLIAN MARGARET ROOK
Lillian Margaret Rook, age 101, died on November 25, 2022. She was a resident of Greenspring, Springfield, VA. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, she was a graduate of the University of Toronto. In 1945 she married Frederick W. Rook, MD and moved to Northern Virginia in 1953. Involved in numerous volunteer activities, she was an active member of the Fairfax County Medical Society Auxiliary and Providence Presbyterian Church. She was predeceased by her husband Frederick W. Rook, MD and her son Frederick William Rook, III. She is survived by her daughters Anne Shaffer and Sherrie Rook, daughter-in-law Yolanda Rook, and by granddaughters Christine Tashjian, Devon Pongonis, and Kelsey Rook. She also leaves two great-grandchildren, Adrianna Tashjian and Brooks Pongonis. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to Local Mission Outreach at Providence Presbyterian Church.
murphyfuneralhomes.com

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICES
MONDAY- FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To place a notice, call:
202-334-4122
800-627-1150 ext 4-4122
FAX:
202-334-7188
EMAIL:
deathnotices@washpost.com

Email and faxes MUST include name, home address & home phone # of the responsible billing party.
Fax & email deadline - 3 p.m. daily
Phone-In deadline
4 p.m. M-F
3 p.m. Sa-Su

CURRENT 2022 RATES:
(PER DAY)

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Black & White
1" - $150 (text only)
2" - $340 (text only)
3" - $490
4" - $535
5" - $678

SUNDAY
Black & White
1"- $179 (text only)
2" - $376(text only)
3" - $543
4" - $572
5" - $738

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices
$150 each additional inch wkday
$179 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Color
3" - $628
4" - $676
5" - $826

SUNDAY
Color
3" - $665
4" - $760
5" - $926

6"+ for ALL color notices
$249 each additional inch wkday
$277 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3"
(All photos add 2" to your notice.)

ALL NOTICES MUST BE PREPAID

MEMORIAL PLAQUES:
All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque

Additional plaques start at $26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through www.legacy.com

LEGACY.COM
Included in all death notices
Optional for In Memoriams

PLEASE NOTE:

Notices must be placed via phone, fax or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person.
Payment must be made via phone with debit/credit card.

The Washington Post

PAID DEATH NOTICES

HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday, December 24, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Monday, December 26, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

&

Saturday, December 31, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023 ***11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.***

Monday, January 2, 2023 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Photo Deadline: 1 p.m.

NO EXCEPTIONS

To place a notice, call:
202-334-4122
800-627-1150
Ext. 4-4122
deathnotices@washpost.com

DEATH NOTICE

BERTAUT



CLAARTJE RATHJENS BERTAUT
Claartje Rathjens Bertaut, age 91, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her five children, on December 4, 2022. Matriarch, Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, Second Mom, avid grandmother, maker of stollen and oatmeal-chocolate chip cookies for her family and students only begin to describe the many roles that Claartje played in her life. Claartje was born on May 8, 1931, in Wilmington, DE., to Fritz and Clara (den Hartog) Rathjens. From 1934 to 1946, Claartje grew up in Nazi Germany and occupied Poland. After the war, the family returned to the U.S, where Claartje graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, Trinity College (Washington, DC), and Carnegie Tech (Pittsburgh, PA), where she met her husband, Ed. Once her children reached school age, Claartje enjoyed a 35+ year career teaching and tutoring math and science to middle and high school students, including 25 years at the Edmund Burke School.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Edgard Francis Bertaut; parents and brother Fritz M. Rathjens, and daughter-in-law Mary Elizabeth Strange. She is survived by her children, Edgard (Carol) Bertaut, Christopher Bertaut, Richard (Cindy) Bertaut, Juliet (Ogden) Copeland, and Nanette (Charles) Dupuy; grandchildren Jules (Lucas), Katherine, Scott, Clara, Natalie, James, Gordon, Cyrus, Carl, and Alta; and great-grandson Walter. Other survivors include her sister Elizabeth Mendelsohn, and numerous nieces and nephews. Friends and relatives are invited to call at Gawler's Sons, 5130 Wisconsin Ave. NW, on Thursday, December 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022, at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada St. NW. A private interment will be at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E) or Southern Poverty Law Center.

JOSEPH GAWLER'S SONS, LLC
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE WEATHER

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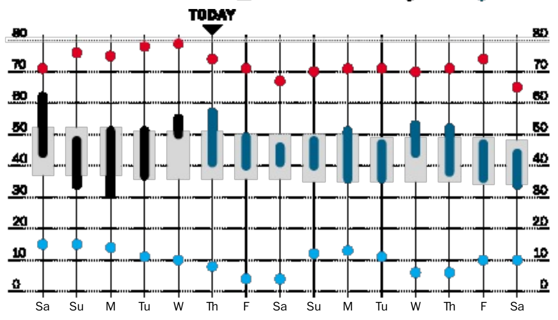
Increasingly cloudy

Partial clearing early will give way to increasing cloud cover over time. Highs will reach the mid-50s in most spots. Winds will be from the northwest, around 10 mph, with gusts around 20 mph.

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Cloudy	Rain	Rain	Shower	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
57° 41°	49° 40°	46° 41°	48° 40°	51° 36°	47° 36°
FEELS*: 54°	FEELS: 46°	FEELS: 41°	FEELS: 46°	FEELS: 43°	FEELS: 49°
CHNCE PRECIP: 0%	P: 55%	P: 30%	P: 55%	P: 5%	P: 5%
WIND: NNW 7–14 mph	W: ENE 6–12 mph	W: NE 7–14 mph	W: SSE 6–12 mph	W: NNW 8–16 mph	W: NNW 4–8 mph
HUMIDITY: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: High	H: Moderate	H: Moderate

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

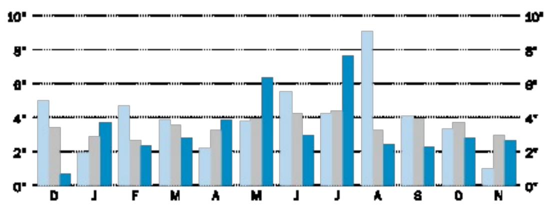


Statistics through 5 p.m. Wednesday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**55°** 1:00 p.m.	**55°** 3:00 p.m.	**56°** 1:00 p.m.
Low	**50°** 2:00 a.m.	**50°** 1:00 a.m.	**51°** 6:00 a.m.
Normal	51°/36°	49°/31°	50°/31°
Record high	79° 1998	77° 1998	77° 1998
Record low	10° 1882	1° 2002	6° 2002

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **+0.4°** yr. to date: **+0.2°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.09"	0.03"	0.05"
Total this month	0.53"	0.40"	0.72"
Normal	0.80"	0.80"	0.87"
Total this year	40.18"	36.21"	43.10"
Normal	39.21"	40.74"	42.16"
Snow, past 24 hours	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"
Snow, season total	0.0"	Trace	0.0"

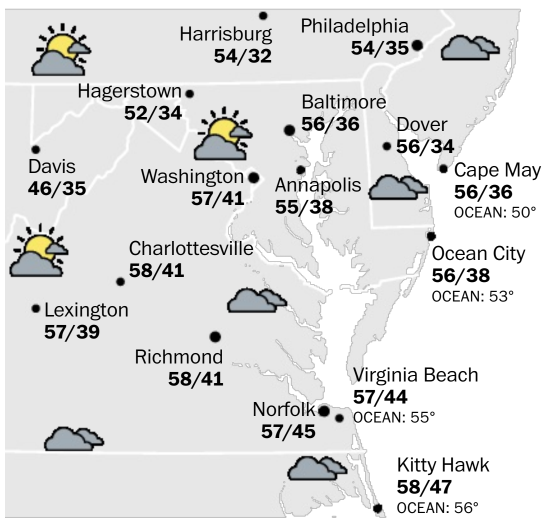
Moon Phases

Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 29	Jan 6
Last Quarter	New	First Quarter	Full

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	7:14 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Moon	4:59 p.m.	7:49 a.m.
Venus	8:12 a.m.	5:29 p.m.
Mars	4:27 p.m.	7:31 a.m.
Jupiter	12:58 p.m.	12:54 a.m.
Saturn	11:20 a.m.	9:40 p.m.

REGION



Pollen: Low
Grass Low
Trees Low
Weeds Low
Mold Low

Air Quality: Good
Dominant cause: Particulates

UV: Low
1 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, a thick cloud cover. High 47 to 52. Winds north 7–14 mph. Tonight, cloudy; a shower early, then occasional rain, drizzle; however, a shower in southern parts. Low 33 to 38. Winds southeast 7–14 mph. Friday, a passing shower.

Atlantic beaches: Today, cloudy. High 54 to 58. Winds north–northwest 10–20 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy; a passing shower in the south. Low 34 to 45. Winds north 8–16 mph. Friday, a passing shower in the south. High 47 to 51.

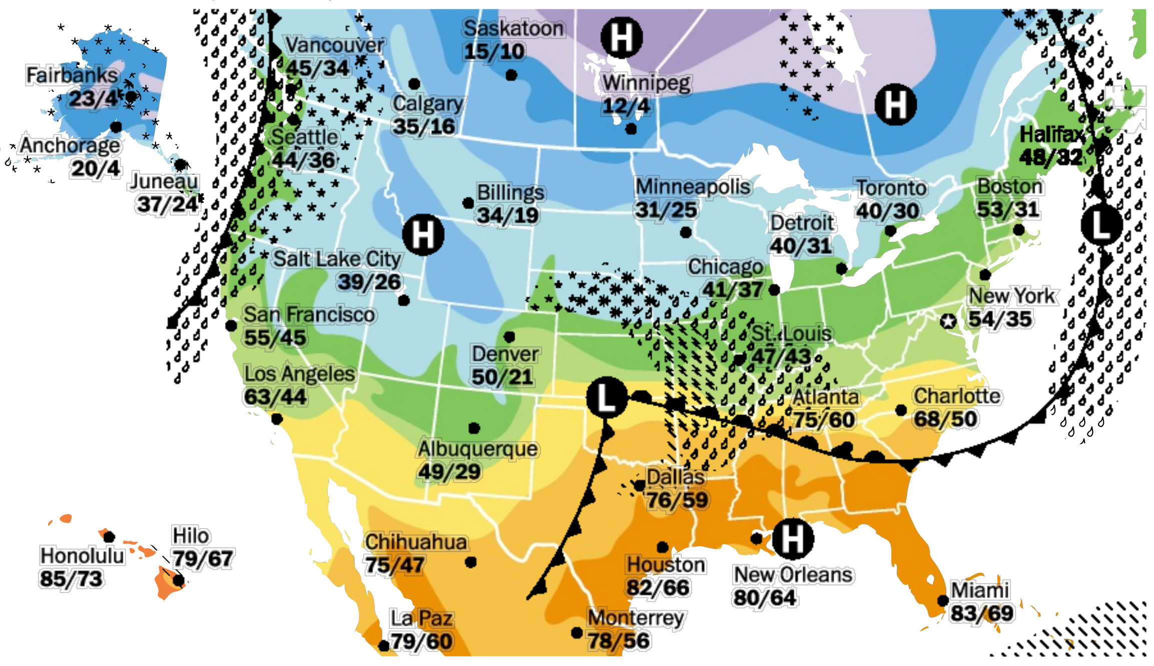
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, a thick cloud cover. Wind north 6–12 knots. Waves 2 feet or less. Visibility unrestricted. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, cloudy. Wind north 8–16 knots. Waves 1–2 feet on the Lower Potomac; 2–4 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.30 feet today, falling to 3.20 Friday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	2:52 a.m.	**8:05 a.m.**	2:41 p.m.	**8:14 p.m.**
Annapolis	**4:36 a.m.**	10:48 a.m.	**5:49 p.m.**	none
Ocean City	12:52 a.m.	**7:17 a.m.**	1:49 p.m.	**7:31 p.m.**
Norfolk	2:57 a.m.	**9:27 a.m.**	3:56 p.m.	**9:44 p.m.**
Point Lookout	**12:40 a.m.**	6:23 a.m.	**1:41 p.m.**	8:49 p.m.

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



Yesterday's National
High: Edinburg, TX **86°**
Low: Crosby, ND **–36°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Marble Bar, Australia **115°**
Low: Delyakir, Russia **–65°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	46/26/pc	40/20/pc
Albuquerque	49/29/s	50/30/s
Anchorage	20/4/s	9/–4/s
Atlanta	75/60/pc	71/54/c
Austin	80/64/pc	78/66/c
Baltimore	56/36/c	47/38/r
Billings, MT	34/19/pc	35/16/c
Birmingham	77/61/c	72/51/pc
Bismarck, ND	22/–2/s	30/13/c
Boise	36/29/pc	36/28/sn
Boston	53/31/pc	47/35/pc
Buffalo	42/30/c	39/28/pc
Burlington, VT	41/20/sh	34/21/pc
Charleston, SC	76/60/pc	67/54/pc
Charleston, WV	53/44/c	54/45/r
Charlotte	68/50/r	55/46/sh
Cheyenne, WY	36/22/s	40/20/s
Chicago	41/37/c	40/35/r
Cincinnati	49/42/r	54/40/r
Cleveland	44/33/c	45/38/r
Dallas	76/59/c	72/63/pc
Denver	50/21/s	50/24/s
Des Moines	38/33/i	37/34/c
Detroit	40/31/c	40/32/sn
El Paso	65/41/s	64/40/pc
Fairbanks, AK	23/4/sn	9/–15/sn
Fargo, ND	25/14/s	31/29/pc
Hartford, CT	53/27/pc	45/28/pc
Honolulu	85/73/pc	84/71/s
Houston	82/66/c	79/67/c
Indianapolis	46/40/r	49/38/r
Jackson, MS	82/63/pc	78/59/pc
Jacksonville, FL	82/58/pc	81/56/pc
Kansas City, MO	47/33/t	43/33/c
Las Vegas	56/39/s	56/41/s
Little Rock	71/60/r	69/53/pc
Los Angeles	63/44/pc	60/49/pc
Louisville	52/47/r	60/43/r
Memphis	72/60/r	68/48/pc
Miami	83/69/pc	83/68/s
Milwaukee	40/34/c	41/35/sn
Minneapolis	31/25/c	36/29/sn
Nashville	61/58/r	66/46/sh
New Orleans	80/64/c	79/64/pc
New York City	54/35/c	45/34/pc
Norfolk	57/45/c	50/47/c
Oklahoma City	67/38/s	59/45/c
Omaha	38/29/i	37/29/pc
Orlando	82/61/pc	81/61/s
Philadelphia	54/35/c	49/34/pc
Phoenix	65/44/s	63/42/s
Pittsburgh	46/32/c	46/36/r
Portland, ME	50/26/pc	44/26/pc
Portland, OR	44/38/r	43/38/r
Providence, RI	55/28/pc	47/32/pc
Raleigh, NC	64/47/c	52/42/r
Reno, NV	41/31/c	42/32/c
Richmond	58/41/c	50/41/sh
Sacramento	54/42/r	52/44/pc
St. Louis	47/43/r	53/37/pc
St. Thomas, VI	83/73/pc	83/72/s
Salt Lake City	39/26/pc	38/27/c
San Diego	63/46/pc	63/47/pc
San Francisco	55/45/r	54/48/c
San Juan, PR	84/74/s	84/72/pc
Seattle	44/36/r	42/38/sn
Spokane, WA	31/27/sn	31/24/c
Syracuse	44/25/sh	39/25/pc
Tampa	83/64/s	81/65/s
Wichita	58/31/r	52/35/pc

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	76/47/s	76/45/s
Amsterdam	43/29/sn	38/30/sn
Athens	65/54/c	67/59/pc
Auckland	64/60/sh	73/65/c
Baghdad	68/47/s	68/47/c
Bangkok	91/76/c	90/76/t
Beijing	44/21/pc	42/26/pc
Berlin	38/30/sn	34/29/c
Bogota	65/49/r	65/47/pc
Brussels	39/30/sn	36/28/sn
Buenos Aires	91/72/s	85/71/pc
Cairo	73/58/s	77/57/s
Caracas	72/61/pc	72/62/pc
Copenhagen	32/27/sf	36/32/c
Dakar	85/73/s	84/73/s
Dublin	38/27/sn	37/28/s
Edinburgh	38/26/pc	36/28/s
Frankfurt	40/30/sn	38/27/c
Geneva	41/36/c	40/36/r
Ham., Bermuda	72/67/c	72/64/c
Helsinki	30/14/sn	27/16/sn
Ho Chi Minh City	90/74/t	90/75/t
Hong Kong	73/62/s	73/60/s
Islamabad	71/47/c	72/45/s
Istanbul	61/54/pc	62/56/c
Jerusalem	62/48/s	62/47/s
Johannesburg	77/58/t	76/58/pc
Kabul	54/35/s	51/32/pc
Kingston, Jam.	83/75/pc	83/74/pc
Kolkata	80/60/pc	83/61/pc
Kyiv	33/29/c	35/33/c
Lagos	86/77/pc	87/77/s
Lima	74/65/c	74/65/pc
Lisbon	61/56/r	62/52/r
London	38/26/s	38/27/s
Madrid	54/44/r	52/44/r
Manila	90/78/pc	84/77/t
Mexico City	73/52/s	70/50/s
Montreal	39/21/s	33/17/pc
Moscow	23/21/sn	27/23/sn
Mumbai	92/72/pc	89/70/pc
Nairobi	77/61/t	76/62/t
New Delhi	76/54/pc	77/54/pc
Oslo	22/16/c	21/17/c
Ottawa	37/21/s	33/17/pc
Paris	39/31/c	37/26/pc
Prague	38/25/c	33/28/c
Rio de Janeiro	80/69/sh	83/70/s
Riyadh	76/57/pc	68/52/pc
Rome	63/56/r	66/56/r
San Salvador	87/64/s	86/65/s
Santiago	89/58/s	87/57/s
Sarajevo	50/43/r	57/50/r
Seoul	46/31/pc	48/29/s
Shanghai	60/52/pc	57/50/pc
Singapore	85/75/c	84/75/t
Stockholm	20/15/sf	22/18/sn
Sydney	72/58/pc	68/57/pc
Taipei City	68/65/r	69/63/sh
Tehran	50/37/pc	50/37/pc
Tokyo	59/46/s	51/44/c
Toronto	40/30/c	35/25/c
Vienna	39/32/pc	37/35/r
Warsaw	38/29/c	35/30/c

Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**- showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

Struggle leads to fatal shooting at Metro Center, police say

SHOOTING FROM **B1**

8:15 p.m. and had not recovered another firearm.

Police said the agent, who was not identified but who Benedict described as being "veteran," suffered minor injuries. The identity of the man who was killed also was not immediately made public.

The FBI issued a statement saying it "takes any shooting incident involving our agents or task force members seriously." D.C. police are investigating to determine whether the shooting is justified by law; the FBI said its inspection division also is reviewing the circumstances of the shooting.

Metro briefly stopped service on the Red Line and ultimately shut down the station and directed commuters to other nearby stops.

Megan Gamble was on a Red Line train when it pulled into Metro Center to the sound of gunshots. She posted on Twitter that "everyone on the train hit the ground," adding, "the train didn't stop, went on through."

Gamble said in a message to The Washington Post that she had just boarded the train at Farragut North, on her way to a fundraiser for the D.C. Abortion Fund. She said the gunfire rang out as the train slowed and entered the Metro Center station.

Angelic Young, 46, of Silver Spring, was standing on the platform as the train whooshed by. She said she had headphones on and didn't realize what had happened until people began shoving and pushing to get to an exit.



EMILY DAVIES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Police stand outside the Metro Center station in D.C., where authorities say a federal officer shot and killed someone on a Red Line platform on Wednesday. Metro briefly stopped service on the Red Line and ultimately shut down the station.

She said in a message to The Post that she joined others taking cover behind escalators, which also were packed with people. She said she "stayed there for cover" until she heard an announcement to exit the station.

Meanwhile, Gamble, 39, who lives in the District's Dupont Circle neighborhood, said the train sped to next station. She stayed on until it reached her stop on Rhode Island Avenue.

Metro General Manager Randy Clarke has said transit police have beefed up patrols at stations this fall in response to violence occurring on trains, stations or buses. The police force also has dispatched teams of officers throughout the system to enforce fare evasion, which proliferated during the pandemic.

"Really grateful for the quick reaction & thoughtful attention by our rail operator tonight whose response during tonight's police involved shooting @wmata Metro Center kept customers from potential danger," Clarke tweeted.

Wednesday's shooting comes days after an FBI agent was acquitted of attempted second-degree murder in the shooting of a man aboard a moving Metro train in December 2020.

Authorities said the agent was approached by a man who was panhandling and got into a verbal altercation with him. The agent argued he fired his gun to defend himself after the man made threats and appeared to take an aggressive posture.

A prosecutor argued the agent had "no business firing a gun."

Retropolis
Stories of the past, rediscovered.
washingtonpost.com/retropolis
The Washington Post

S0129-6x2.5

The Washington Post
STYLE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 EZ RE C



VANESSA LEROY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A pounding at their door

Couple pushes for reform after an ER visit spurs abuse inquiry

BY CAITLIN GIBSON

The baby woke up wailing just after 2 a.m., and the moment Sarah Perkins lifted her 14-week-old son, Cal, into her arms, she knew he had a fever. His temperature had climbed above 103, so Perkins was soon on her way to the emergency room while her husband, Josh Sabey, stayed at their apartment in Waltham, Mass., with their 3-year-old son, Clarence. In the pre-dawn hours of July 13, the doctors ordered an X-ray to check Cal's lungs for signs of infection, and that is when the family's nightmare began.

The imaging revealed a healed fracture on Cal's rib cage, several weeks old, about the size of a thumbprint. The injury was determined to be the result of nonaccidental trauma — meaning it was now a suspected case of child abuse. A social worker visited the hospital room where Perkins was anxiously monitoring her feverish infant. The woman's tone, Perkins recalls, was immediately adversarial: *We are talking about intentional trauma. How can you explain your child's injury?*

Every year, more than 3 million children become the subjects of child protective services investigations by agencies across the United States, according to data from the Department of Health and Human Services. Now, literally overnight, Perkins and Sabey's sons numbered among them. The months-long saga that followed would inflict a lasting sense of fear, outrage and trauma, heightened by the fact that everything — each parenting choice, any passing comment, even their body language — felt subject to scrutiny by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Their experience, the family says, has instilled a new sense of mission to fight for systemic reform, an effort that has already set the stage for legislative change.

In the first days after Cal's injury was discovered, social workers questioned both parents at length, as well as 3-year-old Clarence. The children were subjected to medical examinations; no further concerns were found. DCF workers surveyed Perkins and Sabey's apartment; no concerns were found there, either. On July 14, Perkins and Cal were

SEE PARENTS ON C2

Sarah Perkins and Josh Sabey spend time with sons Cal, left, and Clarence at their home in Waltham, Mass., where police and emergency response workers from the state's Department of Children and Families showed up in the early-morning hours to take custody of the boys amid an abuse investigation.

MEMO

Trevor Noah: A late-night comedy unicorn

BY ELAHE IZADI

Trevor Noah will host "The Daily Show" one last time Thursday, seven years after he first sat in the chair previously occupied by Jon Stewart and said what everyone was thinking: "I can only assume this is as strange for you as it is for me."

By that point in 2015, "The Daily Show" had turned into a cultural and political institution synonymous with its longtime host. Over 16 years, Stewart had helped remake the Comedy Central show and cemented himself as the foremost critic of news media, a household name, a topic for research institutions and, depending on your view, either a voice of reason amid the insanity or an insufferable comedian who took himself too seriously.

Then came 31-year-old Noah. While a successful comedian abroad, and particularly in his native South Africa, Noah was relatively unknown in the United States; he had been a "Daily Show" correspondent for only four months. Before he even started the job, a mini-scandal erupted over a few old, bad jokes he had tweeted. Stewart and the network supported him regardless, and on his first night as host, Noah promised to try to make sure Stewart didn't "look like the crazy old dude who left his inheritance to some random kid from Africa." From the outside, it did feel kind of random.

But no one could predict how the next few years would go, not just for Noah but for life itself, when unprecedented times



MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

Trevor Noah ends his run as host of "The Daily Show" on Thursday.

became exhaustingly very precedented. There was a reality-TV-star president and subsequent norm-busting presidency. The largest civil rights protests in a generation. An insurrection. The pandemic.

One could only imagine how Stewart would have handled all the twists and turns every night: outraged, sarcastic, bemused, flabbergasted. But Noah could bring something Stewart and his once-rumored possible replacements couldn't: a comedic view that could be given only by an outsider, who offered it while a part of the inside.

Noah's global sensibility primed him for this unique positioning. He was a biracial kid born in apartheid South Africa, living through the paradox and complexity of race and racism in both a highly specific but also universal way. He speaks seven languages. He is well-traveled and has friends and family from all over the globe.

An early example of his comedic perspective came during the 2016 presidential campaign with a segment about Donald Trump's rhetoric not being "presidential." Noah compared Trump's campaign comments with that of several African leaders and dictators — and found them strikingly similar. "Donald Trump *is* presidential," Noah declared. "He just happens to be running on the wrong continent."

It was a view his competitors couldn't deliver. (And yes, there's at least one other daily late-night host from abroad — the British James Corden — but he's known more for "Carpool Karaoke" than incisive comedy about U.S. politics and race). As Americans, we sometimes can be so steeped in our reality that we fail to see ourselves as we truly are. Noah, on the other hand, wasn't fully *of* this place and could therefore sometimes see it, and us, more clearly. He also didn't do it with the kind of harshness often associ-

SEE MEMO ON C3

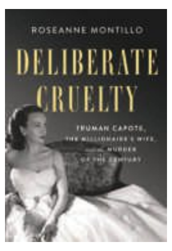
BOOK WORLD

Truman Capote's other true-crime story — and his role in a death

BY DENNIS DRABELLE

In today's world of fractionated media, the celebrity status once enjoyed by Truman Capote, Gore Vidal and Norman Mailer may be impossible to duplicate. Not only did these three authors write brilliantly, but they also chose subjects that were bound to sell books: the massacre of a respectable middle-class family in rural Kansas (Capote's "In Cold Blood"), the lewd exploits of a fictional trans woman (Vidal's "Myra Breckinridge"), the 1967 antiwar march on the Pentagon (Mailer's "The Armies of the Night"). From the 1950s to the '80s, hardly a week seemed to go by without a talk show appearance in which one of them displayed his wit or voiced his take on contemporary affairs. And their behavior made them notorious, as when

SEE BOOK WORLD ON C4



DELIBERATE CRUELTY
Truman Capote, the Millionaire's Wife, and the Murder of the Century
By Roseanne Montillo
Atria. 320 pp. $28.99

Walker's run: Slow-moving train wreck, but inevitable



Monica Hesse

After Herschel Walker had already been accused of procuring multiple abortions for girlfriends, and after news reports revealed he had not one but three secret children, and after his most visible son, a conservative TikTok star, publicly said his father had "threatened to kill us, and had us move over 6 times in 6 months running from [his] violence" — after he had done all that, it came time, on Tuesday, for Georgia voters to decide whether they wanted to elect him as a senator.

At which point NPR ran a headline that read, "Evangelical voters grapple with Herschel Walker's controversial image."

It raises the question: If Herschel Walker's controversies made them "grapple" then *what, exactly, would send them sprinting in the other direction?* The man's opponent was an actual, literal pastor — and still the evangelical Christians didn't know which one to vote for?

Walker lost Tuesday's runoff election to that opponent, incumbent Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D), by just under three percentage points, per the current tally. "We put up one heck of a fight," he said in his concession speech.

What *was* the campaign of Herschel Walker, football star, fumbler of sentences, Donald Trump-anointed, alleged abortion procurer and all-around quagmire? Did we dream it? Did it dream us? It was a fiasco from the beginning, when the Associated Press reported that Walker had once violently threatened his ex-wife — all the way clear to the end: On Monday, the day before the election, an ex-girlfriend alleged that he had grabbed her by the throat and attempted to punch her (he missed, she said, and hit the wall).

Also this week, Business Insider reported that Walker had served as spokesman for two charities that appeared to engage in "little, if any charity." Also this week, Walker criticized an unspecified "they" for "bringing pronouns into our military," but then added, "I don't even know what the heck

SEE HESSE ON C5

After nearly 50 years, D.C. TV reporter Pat Collins to retire

BY PAUL FARHI

Pat Collins ...
is ...
retiring.

The veteran Washington TV reporter — known for his quirky style and dramatic pauses — will end his 36-year run at station NBC4 and nearly 50-year TV career this month, he said Wednesday.

Collins, 76, has reported thousands of news stories, most about local crime and mayhem but also lighter fare, much of it in memorable fashion. One of his enduring features was his snow reports, in which he poked a wooden yardstick into sidewalk piles to show a storm's accumulation.

"I think it was time for me," Collins said in an interview Wednesday. "I've had a good run. I don't know many 76-year-old street reporters. Do you?"

Never an anchor, Collins was a throwback to an earlier era in local TV journalism in which reporters — often newspaper expats — were hired more for their local knowledge, contacts and writing ability than for polished presentation and telegenic looks.

Collins stood out for his storytelling chops, appearance and memorable delivery, which was rife with cliffhanging stops and starts. Diminutive and bespectacled with a ruddy face, he typically prowled the region's crime scenes in baggy khaki pants and sneakers, his hair just a bit too shaggy. He almost

SEE COLLINS ON C3



ISTOCK

A sense of being trapped when authorities came for kids

PARENTS FROM C1

sent home from the hospital with a DCF-approved safety plan, and the caseworker who stopped by their house the next day was reassuring. At the end of a harrowing week, Sabey and Perkins began to believe that the ordeal would soon be over.

They stayed up late that night, and were still awake when they heard a pounding at their door just after 1 a.m., followed by a bellowing voice: *Waltham police!*

The noise had awakened Josh Sabey's mother, Lisa Sabey, who was staying with them, and all three adults raced to the door. When Josh Sabey peered outside, he saw three police officers and two emergency response workers from the DCF at his doorstep. They told him they had new information leading them to believe the children were in danger, and they were there to assume custody and remove Clarence and Cal from their home.

For an hour, as their children slept, Sabey and Perkins tried to reason with the officials at their door. Sabey was convinced that the removal must be illegal; he wouldn't learn until later that it is within the authority of a child protective agency to take custody of children without documentation on hand. When Perkins asked how they planned to feed their children — Clarence has severe allergies, and Cal, who also has allergies, was still exclusively breastfeeding at the time — she received no clear answer.

"They said, 'Our food plan is to call the pediatrician in the morning, and we'll figure it out from there.' And that was pretty devastating," Perkins says. She rushed to put together a bottle and a bag of breast milk for them to take.

When it became clear that they were not going to be able to keep their children at home, Sabey and Perkins began recording what was happening. Toward the end of the cellphone footage, the phone rests on a table as the parents retrieve their confused and disoriented children. "Clarence, you get to go on a car ride," Perkins can be heard saying gently in the background. "I don't want to," he cries. There is the sound of the little boy screaming, and, later, his mother quietly sobbing.



VANESSA LEROY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Lisa Sabey, above, holds grandson Cal at the home of Josh Sabey and Sarah Perkins, at right, at the family's home in Waltham, Mass. After the abuse investigation began, the grandmother recalled an incident in which Cal was in brief distress when she held him tightly while taking him out of a car seat.



When she remembers this now, Perkins describes a sense of being trapped, forced to comply — that despite the panic of that moment, "there was this feeling of, 'We have to be calm or else it's going to be worse,'" she says. "I was also aware that I wanted to be as calm as I possibly could because I didn't want to scare Clarence, and he was already pretty terrified."

It took more than 30 minutes to settle their hysterical 3-year-old into the back of a stranger's car. Sabey and Perkins have not forgotten the final words the police officer said to them as the officials departed at 2:30 a.m. The comment wasn't malicious, Sabey believes, just wholly oblivious to the agony of the moment.

"Calm down," Sabey remembers the police officer telling them as he prepared to leave, and then, just before their children were driven away into the night: "Sleep well."

Within a matter of hours, tens of thousands of strangers on the internet had learned of the family's plight: Gabrielle Blair, Sabey's aunt and the author and writer behind the popular "Design Mom" blog, tweeted a lengthy thread detailing what had happened to her nephew and his family, which quickly went viral.

Blair described her nephew and his wife as devoted parents who were devastated by what had transpired. The doctors and social workers who immediately started observing the family appeared to see something else, and their perspectives were reflected in the official intake report for Perkins and Sabey's case.

When Perkins was first told about Cal's injury, the doctor documented that she didn't seem very distraught. It was also noted that Perkins also didn't seem emotional when the social worker questioned her — an encounter that Perkins describes as aggressive and insulting. At one point, the social worker asked Perkins if her husband "regularly ignored his children when they were in the same room," Perkins recalls, and she rolled her eyes. Her eye-roll is noted in the intake report, absent any context about what prompted the response. The report also notes that "there were not enough follow up questions asked by the parents regarding the injuries to Cal."

Perkins says she was far more concerned about the emergency that had brought them to the hospital in the first place. "I felt like — I *know* that nobody who has ever held Cal has abused him, so that is not a concern to me," she says. "What *is* a concern is that he's not breathing well."

Cal was exhausted and miserable, she says, his small voice hoarse from screaming, and Perkins wanted to know if the legally mandated tests could wait until her son could have a chance to rest, nurse and see his blood oxygen levels improve. She was told that the tests needed to proceed promptly. As she helped hold down her writhing son for a blood draw — it took multiple attempts, she says, and blood spurted on the crib — she began to weep. This, too, was noted as suspicious: "The DCF worker told us later that they had reported that I was extremely upset," Perkins says. Now she *was* showing emotion, but "their concern was that I seemed upset that they might find something in the test." The tests results were normal.

When reached for comment for this story, DCF officials responded that the department is unable to confirm or deny information about any specific case.

At first, the family was at a loss to account for Cal's injury. He'd fallen from the bed once, they said, and Clarence was sometimes rough with his baby brother, but the doctors said these were unlikely explanations for the fracture. Neither child was attending day care.

"It's hard to underscore just how naive we were," Perkins says. "I didn't know the research on infant rib fractures."

They would soon learn that rib injuries in babies are commonly interpreted as a sign of physical abuse, though experts acknowledge that the research is not conclusive; one study notes that the occurrence of accidental rib fractures in infants is unknown, and so the interpretation of the link between rib fractures and abuse "might be biased by circular reasoning." According to the intake report for Cal Sabey's case, the consulting physician stated that Cal's injuries appeared to be consistent with either blunt force trauma or "someone squeezing the child too tight."

Neither parent had an explanation, but Cal's grandmother did: When Lisa Sabey learned of Cal's injury, she remembered an afternoon when she was babysitting her grandsons, and had lifted Cal from his car seat. His head began to roll back, and she grasped him tightly. She recalls that he shrieked — but he was quickly consoled, she says, and she didn't think to mention anything to his parents at the time. She later provided an affidavit attesting to the episode, supported by a pediatric radiologist who also submitted an affidavit stating that the incident was a probable explanation for Cal's injury. But a full investigation was already underway.

Somewhat ironically, it was Lisa Sabey and her husband, Mark, who assumed custody of the boys after they were taken away from their parents in the middle of the night. After 16 hours in foster care, the family was able to get the grandparents, who had flown in from Colorado, approved to take the children. On July 16, Clarence and Cal joined their grandparents in the basement apartment of a nearby family friend's home in Waltham, and on July 18, the family was able to secure daily visitation and nursing access for Perkins and Sabey. It wasn't until an Aug. 10 hearing that the parents were granted permission to take their boys home under a conditional custody arrangement.

As distressing as this was, they say, they know they were more fortunate than most.

"It's normally a year before parents are united with their kids. I remember reading that, and going outside to my car and just sobbing," Perkins says. "My dad came out, and hugged me, and I said, 'Cal's going to learn to walk before I see him again.' And thankfully that didn't happen for us, but it's what happens for most people."

The impact of the child welfare system and its practices has received a wave of recent public scrutiny: Several cases that were found to be mishandled have drawn high-profile media attention, and in October, a ProPublica and NBC investigation revealed that an overwhelming majority of home visits and home searches carried out by child abuse investigators occur without a warrant.

As White parents in Massachusetts, the Sabeys weren't exactly outliers in the state's child welfare system; 36 percent of the children in the system are White, while 33 percent are Latino and 13 percent are Black. But Black and Latino children are still overrepresented in the state system, according to DCF records. To varying degrees from state to state, low-income families, as well as families of color — particularly Black, Hispanic and Native families — are inordinately subjected to child abuse investigations, says Anna Arons, an acting assistant professor at the New York University School of Law and impact project director of the university's Family Defense Clinic.

"There are statistics from a couple years ago that estimate that 37 percent of all American children will be subjected to one of these investigations before they turn 18," Arons says. "That is a huge, kind of mind-boggling number that speaks to the scale of the system."

Arons's research into child welfare practices in New York City has led her to believe that a vast, invasive surveillance apparatus is not necessary to keep children safe. "That experience is forced on millions of families around the country every year, and fewer than 20 percent of reports end up being substantiated," she says.

In many jurisdictions, Arons says, the caseworkers who handle child abuse investigations are trained by police, which shapes the way they approach their work.

"It is very much based around the idea of finding out the truth, interrogating parents, interrogating children, and the idea that there has to be *something* here, otherwise you wouldn't be here," she says. "I do not want to say that there are any individual caseworkers out here who are doing this for bad reasons" — but she does think cultural biases and preconceptions can influence the evaluation of families. "There is this idea that . . . a mother should react in certain ways, a father should react in certain ways."

Many agencies will consider it a safety risk to the child if a parent objects to the process, she says, "and I think any parent would very fairly voice dissent."

Charles A. Nelson, a professor of pediatrics and neuroscience at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital who has extensively studied the neurological impact of child-parent separation, says that it is not an easy question to determine a universal standard for intervention by a child protection agency, in part because there are unique variables in every case.

"Where you set the bar is a really tough issue. Child protection has dealt with this forever. In Massachusetts, DCF has come under tremendous criticism because there have been times where they set the bar [for intervention] so high that kids were being grievously harmed by their parents," he says. "On the other hand, if we set the bar very low, we perpetrate a different harm, which is separation. I think it needs to be on a case-by-case basis."

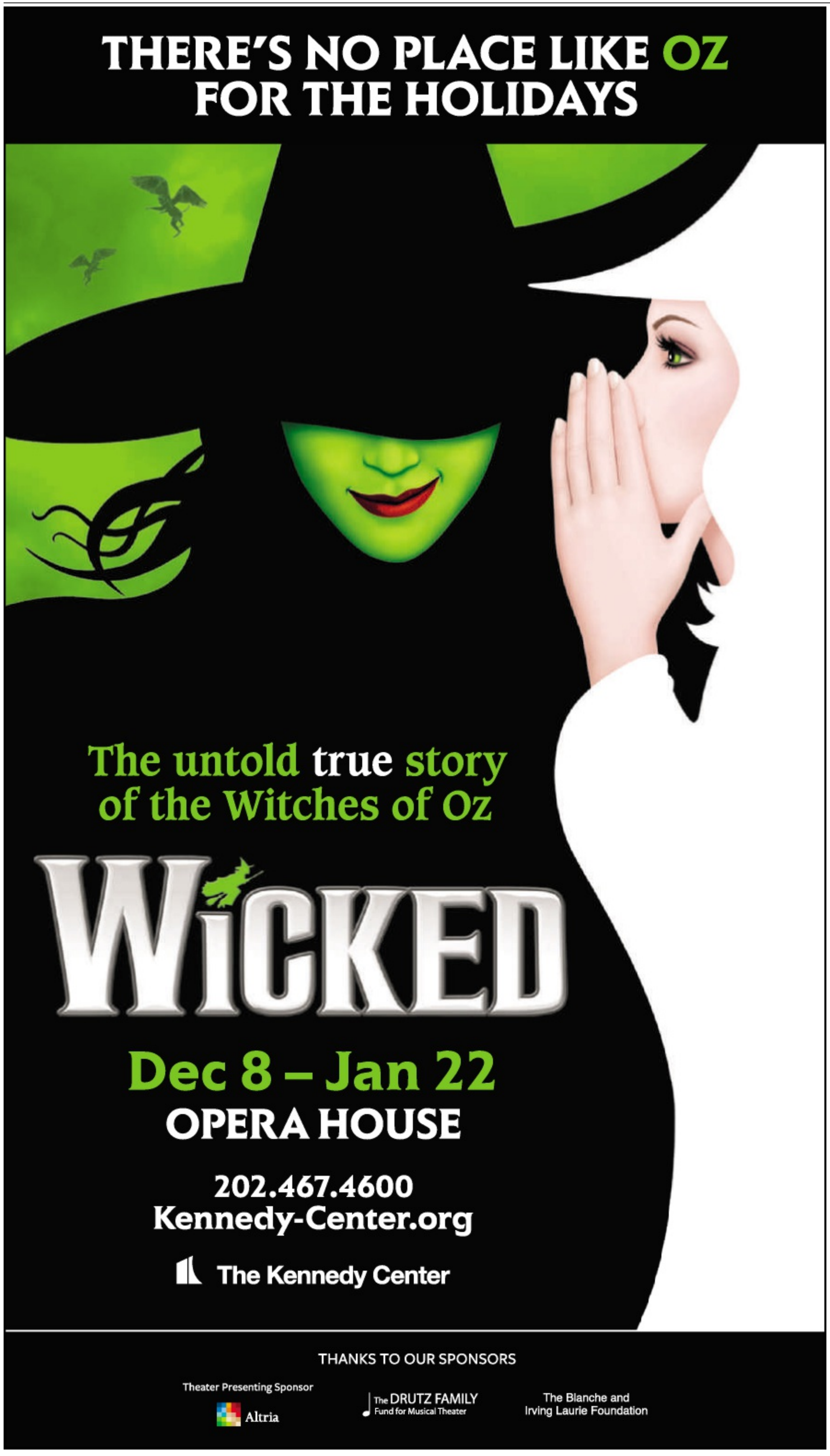
Nelson says an unanticipated, middle-of-the-night removal is a particularly extreme event for a young child. From the moment of separation, a number of variables will affect a long-term outcome for a child: For children who are put in unsupportive or unsafe foster care environments, who aren't quickly reunited with their families, who do not receive the care they need for already-existing mental health issues, Nelson says, "that can lead to a terrible long-term outcome." In a worst-case scenario, he says, "the child isn't just in one foster care placement, but the child goes from one to another to another — that, we know, is catastrophic."

SEE PARENTS ON C3



KEITH BEDFORD/BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES

At Newton-Wellesley Hospital, imaging taken to look for signs of infection revealed a healed fracture on Cal's rib cage.



PARENTS FROM **C2**

His own research has focused on extreme examples of neglect — he is among the principal investigators of the Bucharest Early Intervention Project, a prominent and ongoing study of Romanian orphans — but in a situation like the one experienced by the Sabey and Perkins family, Nelson says, he holds a more optimistic outlook for the children. An infant might not register anything about the brief experience at all; a 3-year-old like Clarence might experience short-term behavioral changes that could subside over time. It is the adults, he says, who are more likely to shoulder a lasting emotional burden.

"With proper support, with a family with access to the resources they need, this should all be in the rearview mirror on the part of the child in months," he says. "But the parents — the parents are going to be traumatized. They're going to be reviewing this episode forever."

Weeks after the boys came home, there were nights when Perkins would awaken with her heart racing, so certain that she'd heard a pounding at the door that she would get out of bed and peer through the blinds to see if anyone was outside.

"Every time, nobody is trying to come into our house," she says, "but I'm so scared, and I can't sleep for hours after that."

One day, Clarence tripped on the stairs and suffered a scratch near his eye, and Perkins felt a surge of anxiety — would the social workers who were observing them believe their account of what had happened? She became hypervigilant, fearful about anything that could be misconstrued. "We can't get sick, we can't get hurt," she says. "Our life has changed. Just being around mandatory reporters feels so much scarier now."

Clarence also started waking unexpectedly at night, screaming in a pitch his parents had never heard before. He'd been fully potty-trained before he was taken from his parents, but after he was returned to them, he started having accidents. His parents noticed that this often happened immediately after the twice-weekly visits from DCF workers.

"Those visits are difficult for us, they're difficult for Clarence. We understand we're being surveilled by them," she says.

Over the course of the investigation, Perkins and Sabey noticed that they were repeatedly asked about their religion — they are Mormon and attend church with their children regularly. At one point in the intake report, a DCF worker made a note that Perkins frequently glanced toward Sabey when the couple was being questioned; the social worker theorized that this might be due to a "possible power dynamic because of religion." (Perkins says she often found the questions so baffling or insulting that she wasn't sure how to respond, and looked to her husband to gauge his reaction.)

For months, the investigation overshadowed everything else in their life. The family had long planned to move to Idaho in the fall, where Perkins planned to complete a doctoral dissertation and the pair would begin work on a new documentary project; their move was put on hold, with no clear timeline for when the investigation might be completed.

To reclaim some sense of agency, they chose to speak openly about their experience, talking to local news reporters and responding to messages they received from other parents in similar situations. They started meeting with elected representatives to push for reform, and Massachusetts State Rep. Joan Meschino is now proposing legislation that would require DCF workers obtain the approval of an on-call judge before any emergency removal is made during hours when courthouses are closed. This would be a good step, Sabey says, but more is needed: "If you say that a judge has to give approval, that's great — so long as you can then make that approval process meaningful in some way, that there is actually a standard that is being met and evaluated."


JOSH SABEY

After Sarah Perkins and Josh Sabey began their advocacy efforts, a Massachusetts lawmaker proposed legislation to require judicial approval before any emergency removal is made after business hours.

For a long time, Josh Sabey says, he felt almost surprisingly detached from the pain and grief of the experience; he felt only fury, he says, and the need to defend his family. But more recently, there have been quiet moments with his family when he feels intensely moved, a reaction he can't quite decipher. It happened once when he watched Clarence kick a soccer ball with particular skill, and when he saw his little son approach bigger kids at the park, wanting to play.

"It will be just this tiny little thing that's happening, and suddenly I'm feeling really choked up," he says. "That hasn't really happened until now. I think that's baggage I carry from all of this, it's something I'm still working through."

At a Nov. 15 hearing in Cambridge Juvenile Court, the caseworker assigned to Perkins and Sabey's case submitted her final report. Her endorsement of Sabey and Perkins's parenting was absolute.

"I have observed no concerns about the children's safety or well being during any of my weekly home visits with the family, and there have been no further concerns about Mr. Sabey's and Ms. Perkin's ability to ensure the children's safety and well being since the case opened with the Department," the report read. "They have demonstrated that they are fully able to provide for the children's safety."

Sabey says he was gratified to hear the judge criticize DCF, and specifically the way the children were removed from their home "in the most draconian way imaginable," Sabey says. "That felt really good, to hear him chastising DCF like that."

The case was closed, and the family is no longer under DCF supervision. But the matter is still not entirely resolved: In a separate proceeding, Perkins and Sabey will request to have the official record amended so that it no longer includes "a supported allegation of child abuse" against them. Cal's medical records still reflect that his injury was the result of nonaccidental trauma; changing that record would require yet another legal process. Perkins and Sabey say they have accumulated more than $50,000 in legal bills, a cost that was covered in part by donations from friends and family and from money they'd saved for a down payment on a home.

A few days after Thanksgiving, the family of four arrived at the old farmhouse in rural Idaho where Perkins's mother grew up, in a small town surrounded by mountains. Clarence raced to explore the sprawling property and the tractors in the garage with his dad. "My hope for this home is just that it's going to be a place where Clarence feels totally at peace, and is able to heal a bit," Perkins says.

Their first full day there ended with a power outage in town, and the family was home together in the darkness late that evening when they heard a sharp knock at their door. Immediately, Perkins and Sabey were seized by fear, startled by the intensity of their reaction to the sound; it was the first time there had been a nighttime knock at their door since their children were taken away.

This time, it was a neighbor standing outside. He wanted to offer them a gas-powered heater and a flashlight, he said. He wanted to make sure they were safe.

Noah excelled at giving takes that were more astute soliloquy than jokey rant

MEMO FROM **C1**

ated with the genre (*Late-night host DESTROYS,* goes the common headline construction).

Noah often showed a sense of amusement, a twinkle in the eye and a grin. As a masterful performer with an easy manner — someone who can inhabit accents and characters seamlessly — even the most devastating takedowns felt charming. He wasn't laughing *at* us. He was here, too, after all, and by choice. He was laughing alongside us.

> *Noah could bring . . . a comedic view that could be given only by an outsider, who offered it while a part of the inside.*

But he also didn't separate himself from being affected by the country's problems, like in a popular compilation of stories about White people calling the police on Black people doing mundane things, such as waiting to meet someone in a Starbucks. "You see this here, this is why Black people should always show up late," Noah quipped. "If you're early, it's loitering. For our safety, Black people, we show up late everywhere we go."

He often searched for some sense of shared understanding, even with those he knew his audience vehemently disregarded. His approach earned him both praise and criticism, such as the response to his most-watched interview on YouTube, with conservative firebrand Tomi Lahren.

He became well-known for his ability to deliver takes that weren't jokey rants as much as thoughtful soliloquies, explaining in a Variety podcast this year, "I just become more comfortable speaking my mind in situations where I feel like the mob forgets that we're dealing with human beings." He spoke about why the domestic troubles between Kim Kardashian, Kanye West and Pete Davidson were actually much more serious than a celebrity tabloid sideshow, tying it to his own childhood and watching his mother be harassed and abused.

In another clip, filmed from home during the pandemic, Noah laid out the connective tissue between Amy Cooper, the White woman who called the police on a Black man birdwatching in Central Park, and the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, which had occurred that same week. People, stuck at home but building toward a collective outpouring of outrage and grief, circulated the YouTube clip as a way of making sense of the moment; it amassed nearly 6 million views within two days.

What "The Daily Show" became under Noah wasn't his work alone. The trick of late-night comedy is to make it look effortless, and as if every joke, graphic and funny little headline is the spontaneous creation of the host. The reality is these sorts of programs are massive group endeavors, an amalgam of a shared and collective sensibility. Some of your favorite laugh lines may have written by a person whose name you don't know at all.


JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

Keegan-Michael Key, left, joined "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah on the night of the 2016 election.

But there is no denying how much the program did change during his tenure. "The Daily Show" evolved and adapted, not necessarily into an entirely *new* thing but something unlike what came before. It had a younger and more international vibe. Correspondents such as Ronny Chieng, born and raised abroad, and Hasan Minhaj, a South Asian American, anchored viral segments that explored American stereotypes.

The Trump years were a struggle for late-night comedy, as shows grappled with how to parody something that already seemed so unbelievable. Watching habits also changed; no longer did people need to wait until 11 or 11:30 p.m. to hear jokes when they could just catch up on YouTube the next day. Late-night ratings plummeted, and so did revenue. The most-watched late-night comedy show is no longer always an institution such as NBC's "The Tonight Show" but often a political comedy show on Fox News.

"The Daily Show" wasn't immune to this. The show over the past several months averaged about 1 million fewer viewers than it did during Stewart's last season. At the same time, the program has become a social media powerhouse, with 44 million followers across platforms, according to Comedy Central. Some of the most beloved elements of the program include segments such as the "Between the Scenes" features on YouTube, in which Noah talks to audience members, riffs on accents or talks about other issues of the day.

The industry has changed in other ways, too. There was a time when the pinnacle of success for a stand-up comedian was to anchor a late-night show. But those shows can be a grind, and they also anchor their hosts to one location. (Noah's replacement hasn't been named, and after a small hiatus, the show will return in January, helmed by rotating "Daily Show" correspondents and a slate of guest hosts, including Al Franken, Chelsea Handler, D.L. Hughley and Leslie Jones.)

But it doesn't seem to be burnout prompting Noah out the door. Although he reportedly wants to tackle other ventures, stand-up comedy itself is calling to him. He wants to get back onstage, but just as much, back out into the world.

He's also no longer an unknown entity in the United States; he was a go-to host for the Grammy Awards and considered a big get for the annual White House correspondents' dinner.

When Stewart left "The Daily Show," Noah asked why he was picked as a replacement. Stewart told him he knew Noah wouldn't try to be him, and therefore the weathered late-night host could leave with his legacy.

"And that means a lot to me, because it freed me," Noah told The Washington Post two years ago. "I'm not trying to be Jon, nor do I need to be."

Noah, now 38, can walk away Thursday knowing he wasn't anyone else, and he didn't need to be. He established his own comedic legacy and gave American late-night audiences something they rarely experienced before: someone like him, telling them exactly how he saw it.

Collins prowled Washington in hats, winter scarves — even a grape costume

COLLINS FROM **C1**

always appeared on camera wearing a hat, typically a wool newsboy or baseball cap. In winter, he would add a V-neck sweater, fleece jacket and long scarf.

His wife, he once said, told him that he looked like a man who got dressed in the dark.

Collins took viewers to back alleys and front parlors, where distraught relatives and witnesses shared emotional reactions to tragic events. He broke stories about many of the city's major crimes and traumas, from Mayor Marion Barry's drug arrest in 1990 (Collins obtained a tape of the arrest in a downtown hotel room) to the disappearance of Chandra Levy in 2001, to the Washington sniper case the following year.

He also once dressed as a bunch of grapes while interviewing a high school student who had been suspended for disrupting a school event while wearing a banana costume.

"I believe TV is intimate and emotional," Collins said Wednesday. "If I do a good job, I'll leave you feeling something. You'll be happy, sad, outraged — but I want to leave you with something."

While Collins was mostly known to viewers in the Washington area, he enjoyed a few moments of national renown. Comedian John Oliver repeatedly highlighted his work on Oliver's HBO program, framing clips of Collins as "Local News Beat Poetry."

Oliver featured Collins's report about a local woman whose car had been spray-painted with "Mike is a cheater" — presumably by a jealous vandal who mistook its ownership.

Collins wound up his report in memorable fashion: "Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike, Mike. See what you've done?" he tsk-tsked. "I don't know who you are. I don't know where you are. But you may want to start changing your ways."

He then paused and bowed his head, assuming an almost prayerful pose, before adding, "Or changing your name."



FRANK JOHNSTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Television reporter Pat Collins stands outside a coffee shop in Georgetown where a triple murder had taken place in 1997.

An Auto-Tuned music video of the monologue subsequently went viral.

Collins grew up in Washington, learning its neighborhoods by accompanying his father, a doctor, on house calls. He has spent most of his life in the area, except for four years as a student at Notre Dame, a stint in the Army including serving as a surgeon's assistant in Vietnam, and three years in the early 1980s as a reporter for a Chicago station, WLS.

He began his television career at Channel 9 in 1973 after working as a reporter for the old Washington Daily News. He later worked for Channel 7, before landing at NBC4 in 1986.

"Pat uniquely stretched from class-clown silly stories, to warm and fuzzy features, to scared-to-death crime stories, all in the same week," said Tom Sherwood, a former NBC4 reporter. "Somehow, he didn't lose his credibility, but only enhanced it."

Sherwood recalled that when he joined the station from The Washington Post in 1989, Collins gave him a bit of advice: Stop asking complicated questions on TV. "He said 'why' and 'what happened' were two simple questions that would get anyone to talk," he said. "People certainly talked to Pat."

Former NBC4 anchor Doreen Gentzler, who worked with Collins for 33 years, said: "There's no one else in local TV who can do what he does. He's an old-school, hard-news reporter who works the sources he's collected over decades. He's the reporter who gets the scoop before the competition, gets it right the first time and stays on the story until the end."

Collins is the third leading figure to leave NBC4 in the past year. Longtime reporter and anchor Wendy Rieger retired at the end of last year before succumbing to a brain tumor. And Gentzler retired just before Thanksgiving, ending a run in which the station regularly led local ratings.

Collins said he planned to spend more time with his family in retirement, which includes his wife, two adult children (a third child, Michael, died last year due to complications from cancer) and five grandchildren.

"I like to say I've had the best job in Washington," Collins said Wednesday, "and I didn't have to win an election to get it."

TELEVISION

TV HIGHLIGHTS



COURTESY OF PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN, THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX

Harry & Meghan (Netflix) Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, provide intimate details about their relationship, from their early courtship to stepping back as working members of the British royal family.

Law & Order (NBC at 8) A murder suspect escapes police custody.

Young Sheldon (CBS at 8) Sheldon's invention puts him at odds with the university.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (NBC at 9) Carisi and Rollins collaborate on an important arraignment.

CSI: Vegas (CBS at 10) The lead suspect in Grace's disappearance is found murdered, frustrating Catherine.

SPECIALS

CMA Country Christmas (ABC at 9) Country is coming to Christmas in this musical special. Scheduled performers include Steven Curtis Chapman, Dan + Shay, Scotty McCreery, Maren Morris, Old Dominion, Molly Tuttle, and the War and Treaty.

MOVIES

A Gingerbread Christmas (Food Network at 8) Hazel returns to her hometown for the holidays, where she finds romance with a local contractor who has been helping her father with the family bakery.

Scentsational Christmas (Lifetime at 8) A pretty perfumer and handsome writer work together to save her father's candle business and find love along the way.

The Elephant Whisperers (Netflix) A south Indian couple devotes their lives to caring for an orphaned baby elephant.

RETURNING

Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles (Bravo at 9) Season 14.

Superstar (ABC at 10:01) Season 2.

South Side (HBO Max) Season 3.

LATE NIGHT

Daily Show/Noah (Comedy Central at 11) Neal Brennan.

Tonight Show/Fallon (NBC at 11:34) Steve Martin, Martin Short, H.E.R., Adam Blackstone, Mary Mary, Inayah, the BBE Big Band.

Late Show/Colbert (CBS at 11:35) Alicia Keys, Eddie Izzard.

Jimmy Kimmel Live (ABC at 11:35) Jean Smart, Wes Bentley, Charley Crockett.

Late Late Show/Corden (CBS at 12:37) Olivia Colman, Sam Mendes, Micheal Ward.

Late Night/Meyers (NBC at 12:38) Catherine Zeta-Jones, Hong Chau.

— Olivia McCormack

BROADCAST CHANNELS

12/8/22	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
4.1 WRC (NBC)	◆**NBC News**	◆**Hollywood**	◆**Law & Order**		◆**Law & Order: SVU**		◆**Law & Order**		**News**	◆**J. Fallon**
4.2 WRC (IND)	Bones		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Roseanne	Roseanne	The Nanny	The Nanny
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	**Fox 5**	◆**TMZ**	◆**Hell's Kitchen**		◆**Flatch**	◆**Kat**	**Fox 5 News at 10**		**News**	**The Final**
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	◆**Wheel**	◆**J'pardy!**	◆Santa Is Comin' to Town		◆**CMA Country Christmas**		(10:01) ◆**Superstar**		**News**	◆**Kimmel**
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	**Open Mic**	◆**ET**	◆**Sheldon**	◆**Ghosts**	(9:01) ◆**So Help Me Todd**		◆**CSI: Vegas**		**9 News**	◆**Colbert**
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	◆**La rosa de Guadalupe**		◆**Vencer la ausencia**		◆**Mi camino es amarte**		◆**La madrastra**		Noticias	◆**Noticiero**
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	◆Family Feud	◆Family Feud	**Fox 5 News On the Plus**		◆Family Feud	◆Family Feud	Big Bang	Big Bang	◆Dateline	
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	BBC News	Greek Table	John Sebastian's Folk Rewind (My Music Presents)				Rick Steves: Why We Travel		Farm-Harvest	Eat Your Med
26.1 WETA (PBS)	◆**PBS NewsHour**		Movie: Agatha and the Truth of Murder (2018)				Happy Birthday Mr Bean			Musicians
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	DW News	Good	Independent Lens			Right to Read	◆Ella Wishes You a Swinging		World News	Optimizing
50.1 WDCW (CW)	Neighbor	Neighbor	◆Silent Night: A Song for the World				**DC News Now**		◆Seinfeld	◆Seinfeld
66.1 WPXW (ION)	Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D.	
CABLE CHANNELS										
A&E	The First 48		The First 48		**The First 48**		**Interrogation Raw**		(11:04) The First 48	
AMC	Planes, Trains		Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★★				(10:15) Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation			
Animal Planet	Homestead Rescue		Homestead Rescue		Homestead Rescue		Homestead Rescue		Homestead Rescue	
BET	House of Payne		House/Payne	House/Payne	Movie: Boo! A Madea Halloween ★★ (2016)					
Bravo	Winter House		**Winter House**		**Million Dollar LA**		**Barmageddon**		**Watch**	Million LA
Cartoon Network	Gumball	Gumball	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	Rick, Morty
CNN	**Erin Burnett OutFront**		**Anderson Cooper 360**		**Anderson Cooper 360**		**CNN Tonight** (Live)		**CNN Tonight** (Live)	
Comedy Central	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	**Daily**	**Hell-Week**
Discovery	Mysteries of the Abandoned		**Mysteries**		(9:01) **Brink of Disaster**				Mysteries of the Abandoned	
Disney	Big City	Big City	Movie: Home Sweet Home Alone (2021)			(9:40) Movie: Christmas...Again?! (2021)				Ladybug
E!	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	**E! News**
ESPN	**College Football Awards** (Live)				**Finalists**	**Herbies**	**GameDay Featured**		**SportsCenter**	
ESPN2	**College Basketball**: Rutgers at Ohio State (Live)				**College Basketball**: Colorado State at Colorado (Live)				**Finalists**	**Herbies**
Food Network	Holiday Baking		Movie: A Gingerbread Christmas (2022)				Movie: Candy Coated Christmas (2021)			
Fox News	**Jesse Watters**		**Tucker Carlson Tonight**		**Hannity** (Live)		**The Ingraham Angle**		**Gutfeld!**	
Freeform	(6:00) Movie: Home Alone ★★★ (1990)			Movie: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ★★ (1992)					The 700 Club	
FX	Transformers	Movie: Thor ★★★ (2011)					Reboot	(10:39) Reboot		Reboot
Hallmark	(6:00) Crown for Christmas		Movie: A Christmas Cookie Catastrophe (2022)				Movie: A Royal Corgi Christmas (2022)			
Hallmark M&M	A Christmas to Remember		Movie: A Godwink Christmas: Second Chance, First Love				Movie: Hope at Christmas (2018)			
HBO	(6:40) Shaq	(7:45) Movie: The Suicide Squad ★★★ (2021)					**Branson**		(11:05) The White Lotus	
HGTV	Christina on the Coast		**Christina on the Coast**		(9:01) **Luxe for Less**		**Hunters**	**Hunt Intl**	Hunters	Hunters Int'l
History	Mountain Men		**Mountain Men**			(9:35) Mountain Men			(11:04) Mountain Men	
Lifetime	(6:00) Movie: Merry Textmas		Movie: Scentsational Christmas (2022)				(10:03) Movie: Serving Up the Holidays (2021)			
MASN	Fight Sports WCK		**Sumo**	**Sumo**	Fight Sports	Wall to Wall Baseball		**Bensinger**	**Heartland Poker Tour**	
MSNBC	**The ReidOut** (Live)		**All In With Chris Hayes**		**Alex Wagner Tonight**		**The Last Word With**		**11th Hour**	
MTV	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	**Siesta Key**		**Cribs**	MTV Cribs	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
Nat'l Geographic	Inside Combat Rescue		Inside Combat Rescue		**Retrograde**				(11:09) **The Flagmakers**	
NBC SportsNet WA	(6:00) 106.7 The Fan's Sports Junkies						Command	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Bulls		
Nickelodeon	**Loud**	**Fairly**	Slimetime	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NWSN	**On Balance**		**Cuomo**		**Dan Abrams Live** (Live)		**Banfield**		Cuomo	
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Movie: Bad Santa ★★★ (2003)				Movie: Scrooged ★★★ (1988)			
Syfy	(6:10) Seed of Chucky ★		(8:05) Movie: Curse of Chucky (2013)				(10:05) Movie: Cult of Chucky (2017)			
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Movie: Thor: Ragnarok	
TCM	(6:15) Black Narcissus		Movie: The Barefoot Contessa ★★★ (1954)					Movie: Mogambo ★★★ (1953)		
TLC	Little People, Big World		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life	
TNT	Ocean's 11	(7:45) Movie: Ocean's Twelve ★★★ (2004)						Movie: Ocean's Thirteen ★★★ (2007)		
Travel	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		**Ghost Adventures**		**The Haunted Museum**		The Haunted Museum	
TruTV	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Inside Jokes	Inside Jokes	Inside Jokes	Inside Jokes
TV Land	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
TV One	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	(8:11) Unsung		(9:14) Unsung			(10:17) Unsung		Uncensored
USA Network	Law & Order: SVU		Movie: The Proposal ★★ (2009)					Movie: The Boss ★★ (2016)		
VH1	(6:00) National Security ★★		Movie: Bad Boys ★★ (1995)					Movie: Bad Boys II ★★ (2003)		
WNC8	DraftKings Sportsbook		Govt. Matters	Civil Service	SportsTalk	**ABC News**	**News**	Civil Service	**The National Desk**	

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ◆High Definition Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

Capote's highly anticipated novel on millionaire's death was never finished

BOOK WORLD FROM **C1**

Capote threw himself a lavish masquerade party, the Black and White Ball, or when Mailer almost killed his wife by stabbing her with a penknife.

Now comes Roseanne Montillo to argue in her new book, "Deliberate Cruelty," that Capote was a near-killer of sorts, too. Montillo, a research librarian and author of several works of nonfiction, makes her case plainly but persuasively.

After the critical and popular success of "In Cold Blood," Capote resumed work on "Answered Prayers," a novel for which he had grand ambitions: It should do to the denizens of New York cafe society what Marcel Proust had done to French aristocrats in his multivolume "In Search of Lost Time" — expose their well-heeled shallowness.

"Answered Prayers" was to center on an actual event, the 1955 killing of Billy Woodward by his wife, Ann, in their house at Oyster Bay Cove, N.Y., on Long Island. Billy was the heir to a New York banking fortune; Ann came from Kansas, where she had grown up poor and neglected by an absent father and a feckless mother. On the strength of a good face and figure, the young woman moved to New York to pursue a modeling career and became the mistress of Billy's father, who on tiring of her arranged for her to meet Billy.

Their marriage was a triumph for Ann, who had wanted to be a socialite when she grew up. But she and Billy drank heavily and fought noisily, sometimes in public. There were separations and talk of divorce. And there was a prowler.

On the last night of Billy's life, the couple attended a party where a recurring topic of conversation was a series of local break-ins. Ann in particular seemed rattled by the incidents. Back home afterward, husband and wife repaired to their separate bedrooms, and Ann took her usual generous helping of sleeping pills. A noise woke her up in the middle of the night. Grabbing a shotgun she had been keeping handy, she got up and opened her bedroom door. "There, at the far end of the darkened hallway," Montillo writes, "she made out the silhouette of a man. She didn't say a word, barely inhaled as she slowly brought the gun to eye level, aimed, and shot twice, hitting her mark, the figure crashing to the floor." It turned out to be Billy.

Capote had no doubt that Ann — "Mrs. Bang Bang," he once called her to her face — had offed her husband with malice aforethought, but in Montillo's telling the evidence is less than clear-cut. A grand jury thought so, too, and local prosecutors declined to put her on trial.

Capote wanted the homicide to exemplify the rotten core of high society, but Montillo introduces another, more personal motive for his fascination. Like Ann Woodward, Truman Capote came from a broken home and had long coveted a place on the upper crust, which he attained the right way, by deploying his wit and charm to make friends of the women he called his "swans" — trophy wives with extra polish, such as Babe Paley, Slim Keith, Princess Lee Radziwill and Marella Agnelli.

"Answered Prayers" was much anticipated — Capote made sure of that by bragging about its scope and insider's perspective — but years went by, and nothing came forth. Then in the mid-1970s he published three chapters in magazines, notably "La Côte Basque, 1965," in which a thinly disguised Keith tells Capote's version of the Woodward story over lunch at the eponymous swanky restaurant.



SONYA HYFIELD

Author Roseanne Montillo.

"La Côte Basque" reads as if written by a misogynistic frat boy rather than the sophisticated Capote, but what galled Keith and her friends most was his use of sordid anecdotes they had told him in strict confidence. Despite his protests that a writer could hardly be expected to ignore such great material, almost to a swan they dumped him — treatment that Capote never got over. As for Ann Woodward, after getting an advance look at "La Côte Basque," she took a fatal overdose of sleeping pills, thus making Capote, as Montillo sees it, an accomplice in her death.

Capote published no more excerpts from his would-be magnum opus. Indeed, he may have written no more of it — an instance of much hustle but no book. (In 1987 Random House published the three stories under the title "Answered Prayers: The Unfinished Novel"; it runs to 180 pages.) Capote's final years were replete with drug use, alcoholism and poor health. On Aug. 25, 1984, he died at age 59.

It goes without saying that "Deliberate Cruelty" is awash in salacious material, but Montillo handles it with narrative skill — and deliberate fairness.

Dennis Drabelle is a former contributing editor of Book World.

the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME		DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
MUSIC - CHAMBER						
Dumbarton Concerts	**Mark G. Meadows & The Movement** Live and Livestream	Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm	Celebrate the holidays with acclaimed jazz composer, pianist, and vocalist Mark G. Meadows! There's something for everyone in his music - gospel, funk, jazz, and holiday classics like Marvin Gaye's "Purple Snowflakes."	Dumbarton Concerts 3133 Dumbarton St NW For details and tickets: dumbartonconcerts.org.	$16 Livestream $43 Live	Dumbarton concerts.org (202)965-2000
MUSIC - CHORAL						
Cantate Victoria Gau, Music Director	**Pieces of Hope**	Sunday, December 11, 5pm	Cantate Concert Choir embraces the hope of the season with a program featuring celebrations of winter by Marques Garrett, Libby Larsen, Ola Gjeilo and more, culminating in Kirke Mechem's Seven Joys of Christmas and Bob Chilcott's jazzy and fun take on Twelve Days of Christmas.		$35-45 Ages 18-35 $20 Under 18 FREE	Tickets and additional information available at Cantate.org

The Guide to the Lively Arts appears: • Sunday in Arts & Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon
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MONICA HESSE

Trump-backed Walker's nonsense just barely lost

HESSE FROM C1

is a pronoun."

"I think Herschel Walker will probably go down as one of the worst candidates in our party's history," Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan (R) told CBS news in an interview over the weekend.

And yet: The runoff election was necessary only because in the general election back in November, Walker and Warnock were neck and neck, each one winning nearly 2 million votes. GOP establishment figures continued, in the ensuing weeks, to support their guy. Sens. Ted Cruz (Tex.) and Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.) showed up at a rally in the final stretch of the campaign. "You know why they're coming after him so hard?" Graham asked. "They're afraid of him. This is a liberal nightmare."

The campaign was definitely some kind of nightmare. That is accurate.

Again: What *was* this campaign?

The Herschel Walker campaign was a slow-motion train wreck. But it was also an inevitability, something set on the tracks long ago. The logical outcome of what happens when a farcical former president fancies himself a kingmaker but favors jesters for the job — Dr. Oz, Sarah Palin.

The campaign was what happens when a party decides that "winning is a virtue," as right-wing commentator Dana Loesch once said when explaining her support for Walker — that it is, in fact, the only virtue worth pursuing, at the expense of integrity, consistency, truthfulness. Herschel Walker's campaign was as though a diabolical political scientist boiled down the essence of a typical Trump candidate to its essential goop, leaving behind the distilled dregs of a political philosophy that mostly centers on spouting off nonsense about pronouns and wokeness and reproductive rights and how climate legislation was unnecessary because there were "enough trees around here."

Throughout the campaign, various commentators launched thoughtful conversations about Walker and what his candidacy said about political fitness. What his candidacy said about athlete worship. What it said about White America, and how White Americans might be using Walker for their own purposes. (Please, do read Caroline Randall Williams's sharp and thoughtful article on this topic in the Atlantic: "I don't particularly care that Herschel Walker doesn't seem to know he's being used," she wrote. "I care that America let it get this far.") Certainly Walker himself would have been better off if he had remained retired as a beloved sports figure, in which case his personal demons might have remained private, rather than as a befuddling political figure, at which point they became fair game for public excavation.

In the end, these conversations might have been impactful — the man did lose, after all, though not by much. Less than 100,000 votes out of more than 3.5 million cast.

This (relatively) narrow result was yet another inevitability, one that has to do with another unfortunate reality of our politics: Candidate quality matters but only at the margins. Walker is not heading to the Senate, but nearly half the Georgia electorate was ready and willing to send a man such as him to the government's so-called greatest deliberative body at the behest of a former president and his core supporters, who might have voted for three bags of MAGA hats in a trench coat if Trump said it was a "great fighter."

The candidate could have been anyone, and it was Herschel Walker.

It's not Walker's "controversial image" that voters, evangelical and otherwise, should be grappling with. It's the fact that when confronted with this disaster of a campaign, they felt the need to grapple at all.

Silent wedding reception? My fiance says that's irrational.

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My fiance and I are planning our wedding. As the bride, I'm planning on making certain requests of my guests, to make sure that my special day is as perfect as possible. For example, I'm asking that my guests wear exclusively yellow at the ceremony.

My fiance has been supportive, but he angrily rejected my other request: that our guests remain silent throughout both the ceremony and reception (to ensure that the focus remains on us). My fiance said that this is irrational. He does not want to have a silent wedding.

I know it's uncommon. I've never heard of others having one, but we've had them in my family. The guests are not permitted to speak at all during the ceremony, and the only toasts allowed are from the mothers of the bride and groom. Instrumental music will be playing quietly.

During the reception, the guests may whisper amongst one another, but may not speak aloud. As the newly married couple, our focus should remain solely on each other rather than on any rowdy guests.

I know it's a lot to ask, but I feel I should have the wedding I want, so that the start of our life together will be perfect. I want him to support me, even if we disagree on something.

Is my fiance's lack of understanding and support a red flag?

— Silence is Golden

Silence: Congratulations! You are on the verge of attaining legendary Bridezilla status. Yes, there are many flags flying over this unusual affair (and they're yellow, of course).

I hope your fiance is paying attention, because if you are this self-centered now — I can only imagine what the dynamic will be like later, for instance if you choose to have children.

Somewhere along the line, you seem to have gotten the idea that a wedding is for the bride alone, to serve her whims and fancies. No. Public weddings are family events and should celebrate the joining of two families.

Your fiance's job is not to support you regardless of how dumb your ideas are. That's not how marriage works.

Let's start with your request that all guests must wear yellow. I have yet to see a man's yellow outfit that didn't bring to mind a giant banana.

Let's move on to the silence. Generally, guests don't speak during wedding ceremonies, unless asked to read aloud. But a silent reception?

Aside from some traditions associated with a Quaker wedding (which yours obviously is not), the idea of a silent reception goes well with your color scheme: basically bananas.

If you don't want rowdy guests, then limit (or don't serve) alcohol. If you want the focus solely and exclusively on you, then get married in a small room, standing before a mirror.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at *washingtonpost.com/advice*. Write to *askamy@amydickinson.com* or Amy Dickinson, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. You can also follow her *@askingamy*.

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MOVIE DIRECTORY

Thursday, December 8, 2022

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14 3111 K Street N.W.
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 3:00-5:15-6:30-7:30-9:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 3:35
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
She Said (R) CC: 3:25-6:25-9:20
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:10-9:50
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 3:05-6:10
Violent Night (R) CC: 3:20-6:00-8:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 7:50
Strange World (PG) CC: 4:35-6:05-8:35
The Menu (R) CC: 4:30-9:20
Bones and All (R) CC: 3:10-9:10
The Inspection (R) CC: 3:15-5:35
Empire of Light (R) CC: 5:00-7:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 4:30-8:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 4:35-7:25
Bones and All (R) OC: 6:10

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market 550 Penn Street NE - Unit E
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:15-3:30-7:00
Devotion (PG-13) 1:15-4:15-7:15
Holy Spider 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30

Avalon Theatre 5612 Connecticut Avenue
Tár (R) 4:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:15-7:30
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 7:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) OC: 1:00
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) OC: 1:15

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema 807 V Street Northwest
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 3:50-4:50-7:00-8:00
The Menu (R) 4:20-7:30
Bones and All (R) 4:30-7:10
Emancipation (R) 4:10-7:20
Devotion (PG-13) 4:00-6:50

Landmark E Street Cinema 555 11th Street Northwest
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 3:15-7:00
She Said (R) 4:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:45
Tár (R) 3:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 3:30-7:15
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 7:20
Nanny (R) 2:30-4:30-7:30
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 4:15
White Noise (R) 2:30-3:40-7:35
Empire of Light (R) 7:00

Regal Gallery Place 701 Seventh Street Northwest
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 7:20
Black Adam (PG-13) 12:20-3:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:00-12:30-1:00-3:00-4:00-4:30-8:00-8:30
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 1:40
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Devotion (PG-13) OC: 11:50AM
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:00
Strange World (PG) 12:10-12:40-2:50-3:40-6:20-9:00
Violent Night (R) 1:00-4:00-6:50
2nd Chance 7:10
Bones and All (R) 12:50-4:50-8:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 11:50-3:30-7:30
The Corridors of Power 1:20-5:30-8:45
Violent Night (R) 5:10-8:10
The Menu (R) 1:30-4:40-7:40

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center 8633 Colesville Road
Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio (PG) 4:05
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 2:15-6:30-8:50
Tár (R) 1:00
Cairo Conspiracy (Walad Min Al Janna) 8:45
I Love Greece 6:45
The Five Devils (Les Cinq Diables) 9:30
The Origin of Evil (L'origine du mal) 7:00
Ordinary Failures 4:45

AMC Academy 8 6198 Greenbelt Road
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-1:45-4:00-7:10
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 1:10-4:50-7:40
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 12:50-4:10-7:20
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:30-4:15-7:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:20-4:30-7:30
The Menu (R) CC: 2:10-5:15-7:50
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:00-6:50

AMC Annapolis Mall 11 1020 Annapolis Mall Road
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:00-2:30-3:30-6:00-7:00-9:00
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 1:35
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) CC: 4:25
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00-9:45
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:30-1:10-2:10-3:50-4:50-6:30-7:30-9:10-10:15
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:00-6:20-9:40
Strange World (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:35
The Menu (R) CC: 11:00-2:15-4:50-7:25-10:05
Bones and All (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
The Inspection (R) CC: 11:40-2:00-4:30-7:10-9:45

AMC Center Park 8 4001 Powder Mill Rd.
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:10-4:10-7:20
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:45-4:30-7:15
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:30-4:30-7:30
The Menu (R) CC: 1:20-4:20-6:50
Bones and All (R) CC: 2:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) CC: 6:00

AMC Columbia 14 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 3:15-4:15-7:00-8:00
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 4:00-8:40
The Polar Express (G) CC: 4:30-7:15
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 2:00
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) CC: 2:15
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 2:20-5:40-8:50
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 2:05-5:25-8:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 3:15-6:00-8:45
The Menu (R) CC: 3:30-6:10-8:50
Strange World (PG) CC: 2:00-4:30-8:20
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
Bones and All (R) CC: 3:30-5:15
I Heard the Bells 6:00
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 2:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 5:30-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 2:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 2:15-5:00-7:45

AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinemas 18 9811 Washingtonian Center
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-3:30-4:45-7:15-8:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
The Polar Express (G) CC: 1:15-3:45
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 8:00
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) CC: 1:00
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) CC: 1:00
She Said (R) CC: 5:30-8:30
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 2:45-6:15-9:30
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 3:00-6:30-9:50
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:30-2:30-4:20-5:15-7:00-9:45
The Menu (R) CC: 1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
Smile (R) CC: 8:15
Bones and All (R) CC: 3:40-6:45-10:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00-9:45
The Woman King (PG-13) CC: 2:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 2:30-6:15-10:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:15-4:00-6:45-9:45
An Action Hero (Hindi) 1:00-4:15
The Quintessential Quintuplets Movie 3:30
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:00-7:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 2:15-3:00-5:00-6:00-7:45-8:45

AMC Loews St. Charles Town Ctr. 9 11115 Mall Circle
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-1:45-3:45-7:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 8:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:15-4:30-7:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:45-4:30-7:15
Strange World (PG) CC: 2:15-5:00-7:45
The Menu (R) CC: 1:15-4:45-7:30
Bones and All (R) CC: 1:30-4:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) CC: 5:30

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12 800 Shoppers Way
The Polar Express (G) CC: 1:20-6:15
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:00-7:00

AMC Montgomery 16 7101 Democracy Boulevard
The Polar Express (G) CC: 3:30-6:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:00-7:15
Violent Night (R) 2:00-4:45-7:30

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD 7000 Arundel Mills Circle
Elf (PG) 1:35-4:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) XD: 12:00-3:45-7:30; 12:00-3:45-7:30; 12:45-1:30-3:00-4:30-5:15-6:00-6:45-9:00-9:45-10:30
Violent Night (R) 7:05-9:55; 2:10-5:00-7:50-10:40
Strange World (PG) 1:25-4:10-6:50-9:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 2:15
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:00-4:05-7:10-10:15
Prey for the Devil (PG-13) 12:30-3:00-5:30
Private Watch Party 12:00-3:30
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:30
Gurthunda Seethakalam 8:00
Bhediya (Hindi) 8:30
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 12:30-3:15
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:00-9:50
Devotion (PG-13) 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35
Violent Night (R) 7:05-9:55
Till (PG-13) 12:25-3:35
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:20-3:50-7:25
Strange World (PG) 12:15-3:05-5:50
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 1:00-3:55-7:00-9:50
Gatta Kusthi 3:25
Loudmouth 7:00-10:00
Bones and All (R) 12:40-4:00-7:15-10:25
The Inspection (R) 12:05-2:45-5:20
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 12:55-4:15
Christmas Bloody Christmas 7:00-9:25
Emancipation (R) 12:10-3:20-6:45-10:00
Spirited (PG-13) 12:35-3:40
Love Today (Tamil) 7:10-10:40
Naai Sekar Returns (Tamil) 8:30
DSP (Tamil) 12:10
Elf (PG) 1:35-4:15
Mukhachitram 8:00
Violent Night (R) 12:05-2:55-5:45-8:35-10:20

Cinépolis Gaithersburg 629 Center Point Way
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 6:20-7:20
Black Adam (PG-13) 6:40
Devotion (PG-13) 7:40
Violent Night (R) 7:00
Strange World (PG) 6:00
Nanny (R) 8:00
The Menu (R) 5:15
Bones and All (R) 6:00
Spirited (PG-13) 5:30

Hoyt's West Nursery Cinema 14 1591 West Nursery Road
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:05-4:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:50-2:40-3:30-6:05-7:15-9:40
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:35
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 1:20-4:05-6:35-9:20
The Woman King (PG-13) 12:45-3:40-9:45
Devotion (PG-13) 1:00-4:10-6:55-9:40
Violent Night (R) 1:45-4:40-7:20-10:00
Till (PG-13) 12:55-3:50-6:40-9:30
Strange World (PG) 1:15-4:00-6:30-9:10
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:10-7:00-9:50
The Menu (R) 1:35-4:25-7:10-9:55
Bones and All (R) 7:00-9:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 1:40-5:10-9:00
The Woman King (PG-13) 6:45

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema 7235 Woodmont Avenue
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:00-4:10-7:30
Memories Of My Father 3:30
She Said (R) 4:15-7:05
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:15
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:15-1:45-4:15-7:00
Nanny (R) 2:00-4:45-7:10
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 1:00
The Menu (R) 4:45; 2:05-7:40
Lady Chatterley's Lover (R) 1:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 4:40
She Said (R) 1:30
Tár (R) 3:30
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 6:45
Empire of Light (R) 7:45

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center 2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 3:50-4:20-7:00
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 4:25
Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio (PG) 4:05-7:05
Devotion (PG-13) 4:15-7:15
Violent Night (R) 4:10-7:20
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:00-7:10
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 7:30
Strange World (PG) 4:30-7:40
The Menu (R) 4:35-7:25

Old Greenbelt Theatre 129 Centerway
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 6:00
Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio (PG) 5:15

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6 3899 Branch Avenue
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 2:30-4:00-6:00
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:30-4:25-7:15
Devotion (PG-13) 2:35-5:30-8:30
Violent Night (R) 2:40-5:10-7:40
Strange World (PG) 4:15-6:30-8:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 7:30

Regal Bowie 15200 Major Lansdale Boulevard
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 7:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 4:30-5:45-7:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 4:00
Violent Night (R) 4:00-5:00-7:00
Till (PG-13) 4:05-7:20
Strange World (PG) 4:00-5:00-7:00-8:00
The Menu (R) 4:00-6:55
Bones and All (R) 7:50

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX 900 Ellsworth Drive
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 3:40-6:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:30-1:45-2:00-2:30-4:30-5:05-5:20-5:35-8:40-9:10
Black Adam (PG-13) 12:40-9:50
Prey for the Devil (PG-13) 6:55-8:55
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 12:45
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 12:30-3:30
She Said (R) 12:30-3:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:00-10:00
Violent Night (R) 12:30-1:00-2:00-3:30-4:00-5:00-8:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:30-5:00-8:30
Strange World (PG) 12:30-1:15-3:20-4:00-6:15-9:15
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00-7:05
The Menu (R) 6:40-9:25
Bones and All (R) 12:45-3:50-10:00
The Inspection (R) 12:50-3:30-7:00-9:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) 12:30-4:05-7:40
White Noise (R) 7:00-8:00
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:00-7:15
The Mean One 12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00
Mukhachitram 6:00-9:05
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 1:00

Regal Germantown 20000 Century Boulevard
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 12:10-6:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:50-12:30-1:30-2:40-3:30-4:30-6:20-7:15-8:10
Black Adam (PG-13) 12:00-3:40
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:05
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 1:00-4:40
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 3:00
She Said (R) 8:05
Violent Night (R) 11:55-12:50-3:50-7:00
Strange World (PG) 12:20-2:00-3:20-4:50-7:30
The Menu (R) 2:10-5:00-7:50
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:10
An Action Hero (Hindi) 2:20-5:20
Bones and All (R) 1:10-4:20-7:40
Mukhachitram 6:00

Regal Hyattsville Royale 6505 America Blvd.
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:00-1:30-2:00-3:00-4:30-5:00-6:30-7:00-8:00-8:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:45
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 1:05
Violent Night (R) 1:20-4:10-5:10-7:20-8:20
Strange World (PG) 1:10-2:10-4:20-5:20-7:40-8:40
The Menu (R) 2:20-5:15-9:00
Bones and All (R) 1:15-4:40-7:50
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:20-7:50

Regal Laurel Towne Centre 14716 Baltimore Avenue
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:30-2:00-2:30-3:00-5:00-6:00-6:30-8:00
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:45-4:50-7:50
Violent Night (R) 1:30-4:20-7:00-8:00
Strange World (PG) 1:30-2:30-4:10-5:10-7:00-8:00
The Menu (R) 1:50-4:50-7:50
Bones and All (R) 4:40
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:00-6:00

Regal Rockville Center 199 East Montgomery Avenue
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:00-6:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:20-2:20-3:10-5:00
Black Adam (PG-13) 6:00
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:10
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 4:10
She Said (R) 1:30-4:50-8:10
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:30
Violent Night (R) 1:40-2:50-4:20-5:40-7:40-8:40
Strange World (PG) 1:10-1:25-2:40-4:00
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 2:10-5:10-8:00
Bones and All (R) 3:20-6:30

Regal UA Snowden Square 9161 Commerce Center Drive
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 5:30; 2:10-2:40-3:10-6:00-6:30-6:50-7:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 3:20
She Said (R) 3:40
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:10
Violent Night (R) 2:00-5:00-6:20-7:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 2:30
Strange World (PG) 1:50-3:50-4:30-6:40-7:20
The Menu (R) 2:20-5:10-8:05
Bones and All (R) 1:35
The Mean One 6:20
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 3:30-7:00

Regal Waugh Chapel & IMAX 1419 South Main Chapel Way
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 3:20-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:50-1:20-2:00-4:30-5:00-8:10-8:40
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:10
Violent Night (R) 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-8:50
Strange World (PG) 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:20-7:00
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 1:30-4:20-7:30
Bones and All (R) 12:40-3:50
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 12:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) 12:20-4:00-7:40

Regal Westview & IMAX 5243 Buckeystown Pike
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 12:50-4:00-7:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:00-1:30-2:10-3:00-4:50-6:00
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:10
Violent Night (R) 12:15-1:40-4:30-5:50-7:20-8:40
Strange World (PG) 12:20-5:10-8:00
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 1:50-4:40-7:30
Bones and All (R) 1:20-5:00-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 12:10-3:50-7:40
The Mean One 1:15-4:10-8:10
Violent Night (R) OC: 3:00

iPic Pike & Rose 11830 Grand Park Avenue
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) (!) 7:00-10:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 6:00-6:45-10:00-10:30
Devotion (PG-13) 6:30-10:15
Violent Night (R) (!) 7:30-11:00
Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical (PG) (!) 6:15-9:30
Strange World (PG) 6:00-9:00
The Menu (R) 7:15-10:15

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8 2150 Clarendon Blvd.
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:55-3:30-4:10-7:00
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) CC: 1:40-7:20
She Said (R) CC: 1:10-4:25
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 2:00-4:00-7:10
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:00-4:40-7:40
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:20-5:20-8:00
The Menu (R) CC: 2:30-5:10-7:50
Bones and All (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:25

AMC Hoffman Center 22 206 Swamp Fox Rd.
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 3:00-4:00-6:15
The Polar Express (G) CC: 4:10-6:45
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 3:00
She Said (R) CC: 4:10
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) CC: 7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 3:00-3:30-4:00-6:45-7:15-8:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 3:00-6:15-9:30
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Till (PG-13) CC: 3:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 3:00-6:00-9:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 4:00-6:45-9:30
The Menu (R) CC: 3:00-3:45-6:30-9:15
Strange World (PG) CC: 3:15-4:15-6:30-9:10
Bones and All (R) CC: 9:30
To the End (R) CC: 7:00-9:30
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 3:30-9:00
I Heard the Bells 6:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 6:00-9:45
The Inspection (R) CC: 3:45-6:30-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) CC: 4:45-8:30
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:30-7:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 3:00-5:45-6:00-8:30-9:00

AMC Potomac Mills 18 2700 Potomac Mills Circle
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 3:15-6:15
Prey for the Devil (PG-13) CC: 2:20
The Polar Express (G) CC: 4:15
GOLD (Hindi) (2018) (NR) 2:55-8:00
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) CC: 2:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 3:00-3:45-6:45-7:30
She Said (R) CC: 4:50
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 4:00-7:20
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 3:30-6:30
The Menu (R) CC: 2:00-4:45-7:30
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 2:00-5:00-8:00
Bones and All (R) CC: 6:10
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 2:05-5:00-7:45
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 2:15-6:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 2:15-6:00
Smile (R) CC: 3:35
I Heard the Bells 6:35
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 4:00-7:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 3:00-4:00-7:00; 6:00

AMC Shirlington 7 2772 South Randolph St.
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:30-8:00
She Said (R) CC: 1:50-4:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:40-7:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 1:40-3:50-7:10
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:10
Violent Night (R) CC: 2:00-4:50-7:30
The Menu (R) CC: 1:20-5:00-7:35
Empire of Light (R) CC: 5:00-7:50

AMC Tysons Corner 16 7850e Tysons Corner Center
Elf (PG) CC: 1:05
The Polar Express (G) CC: 3:35-6:10
She Said (R) CC: 9:00
GOLD (Hindi) (2018) (NR) 8:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:45-3:10-5:20-7:10-8:55
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 2:05-5:10-8:20
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 1:00-3:40-6:20
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) CC: 1:35-4:15
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:15-4:35-8:10
Violent Night (R) CC: 3:20-6:15-9:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 1:25-5:00-8:35
Strange World (PG) CC: 12:55-3:30-6:05
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) CC: 2:45-5:35-8:30
An Action Hero (Hindi) 12:50
The Quintessential Quintuplets Movie 3:45-6:45
Bones and All (R) CC: 12:50-3:55
I Heard the Bells CC: 4:05-8:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) CC: 12:45-4:20
The Game Awards: The IMAX Live Experience 8:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:55-4:50-7:45

AMC Worldgate 9 13025 Worldgate Drive
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 7:30
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 7:15
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) CC: 6:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 6:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 7:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 6:30
The Menu (R) CC: 7:45
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) CC: 6:15

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - One Loudoun 20575 East Hampton Plaza
Strange World (PG) 11:00AM; 1:00-3:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:00-2:00-3:45-6:00
Violent Night (R) 11:30-2:15-4:00-5:30-8:00
Strange World (PG) 6:15
White Noise (R) 7:30
Empire of Light (R) 7:30
Elf (PG) 7:00
Bones and All (R) 12:30-4:15-7:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:00-2:45-6:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 2:30
Strange World (PG) 11:30AM
The Menu (R) 12:30-3:30-6:45

Angelika Film Center Mosaic 2911 District Ave
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:10-12:00-1:35-3:30-5:00-7:00-8:30-9:45
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Devotion (PG-13) 11:00-1:25-10:15
She Said (R) 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:25
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 10:15-12:45-4:00-7:15-10:10
The Menu (R) 10:15-2:00-4:25
The Inspection (R) 10:55-4:35
Holy Spider 11:05-1:40-4:15-7:05-10:15
Bones and All (R) 1:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 7:00-9:35
Empire of Light (R) 5:00-7:30-10:00

CMX Village 14 1600 Village Market Boulevard
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 3:30-4:15-7:10-8:00
Black Adam (PG-13) 3:35-6:50
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 7:55
Devotion (PG-13) 4:05-7:20
The Menu (R) 4:50-7:40
Violent Night (R) 3:50-5:10-6:45-8:05
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:20-7:45
Strange World (PG) 4:45-6:30-7:25
Bones and All (R) 4:25-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 6:00
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 4:00
Strange World 3D (PG) 3:45
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:00-7:00

Cinema Arts Theatre 9650 Main St
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 9:40-12:45-4:00-7:15
She Said (R) CC: 10:10-4:20
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 10:05-1:10-4:15-7:10
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 10:00-1:00-4:10-7:30
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) OC: 9:40-12:05-2:35-5:05-7:40
The Menu (R) CC: 9:45-12:00-2:30-5:00-7:20
Aftersun (2022-1) (R) OC: 1:15-7:00

Cinemark Centreville 12 6201 Multiplex Drive
Elf (PG) 12:15-2:30-5:05
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:00-4:05-7:10-10:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:00-1:45-3:40-5:30-7:20-9:10
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 8:20
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 6:30-9:45
Devotion (PG-13) 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:55
Violent Night (R) 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20
Bones and All (R) 7:40
Strange World (PG) 12:20-1:40-3:00-4:20-5:40-7:00-9:40
Gatta Kusthi 4:35
An Action Hero (Hindi) 2:10-5:20
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 2:55
DSP (Tamil) 1:10-8:00
Naai Sekar Returns (Tamil) 8:30
Violent Night (R) 12:25-3:15-6:05-8:55

Cinemark Fairfax Corner and XD 11900 Palace Way
Elf (PG) 12:20-2:55
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 12:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:05-3:55-4:45-8:25
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 5:30
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:30
Gurthunda Seethakalam 8:00
Devotion (PG-13) 12:15-3:40-6:50-10:10
Violent Night (R) 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:25
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:00-3:30-7:00-10:30
Strange World (PG) 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:20
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 12:10-3:00-5:45-8:30
An Action Hero (Hindi) 12:50-4:00
Bones and All (R) 12:25-3:35
The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2 2:00
Christmas Bloody Christmas 7:00-9:30
Spirited (PG-13) 12:40-3:45
Naai Sekar Returns (Tamil) 8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) XD: 2:50-6:35-10:15
Mukhachitram 8:00
Violent Night (R) XD: 1:00-3:50-6:40-9:35

Medal of Honor Theater - NMMC 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway
We, the Marines (NR) 10:30-11:30-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00

Regal Ballston Quarter 671 North Glebe Road
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 2:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:50-12:50-2:40-3:40-7:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:30-4:50-8:10
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 12:30-3:50
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 8:00
Strange World (PG) 12:20-1:20-3:20-6:10-8:50
Violent Night (R) 12:00-1:00-4:00-7:00
The Menu (R) 1:40-4:30-7:50
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00-7:30
One Piece Film Red (PG-13) 1:10-4:20-7:20
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:10-7:40

Regal Dulles Town Center 21100 Dulles Town Circle
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 12:10
Black Adam (PG-13) 2:00-5:15-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:15-1:15-3:15-3:45-4:45-7:15
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 1:30-7:45
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Violent Night (R) 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00
Strange World (PG) 12:05-2:45-5:30-8:05
The Menu (R) 12:50-3:30-6:10-8:50
Bones and All (R) 4:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 8:15

Regal Fairfax Towne Center 4110 West Ox Road
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:20-3:10-4:10-5:00-7:50-8:40
Black Adam (PG-13) 2:50-5:40
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Violent Night (R) 12:30-3:30-4:40-6:10-9:00
Strange World (PG) 1:50-4:20-7:30
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00-7:10
The Menu (R) 12:40-3:20-6:00-8:50
Bones and All (R) 8:30
Decibel (Desibel) 12:10-2:00-4:50-7:40
Violent Night (R) OC: 1:40

Regal Fox & IMAX 22875 Brambleton Plaza
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 2:10-8:20
The Legend of Maula Jatt (Maula Jatt 2) 1:10-8:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 2:40-6:20
Black Adam (PG-13) 5:20
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
HIT: The 2nd Case (Telugu) 1:40-4:45-7:40
Bhediya (Hindi) 12:40
Violent Night (R) 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00
Strange World (PG) 12:30-3:20-6:10
The Menu (R) 12:45-3:45-6:30
An Action Hero (Hindi) 1:20-4:20-7:20
Bones and All (R) 8:45
Drishyam 2 (Hindi) 4:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever - The IMAX 2D Experience (PG-13) 1:30-5:10-8:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 12:10-3:50-7:30
DSP (Tamil) 12:20-3:40-7:10
Strange World (PG) 2:00-4:40-7:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:50-4:30-8:10

Regal Kingstowne & RPX 5910 Kingstowne Towne Center
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:45-8:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:05-4:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 3:15
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 1:45
Violent Night (R) 8:00
Till (PG-13) 1:20
Strange World (PG) 4:45-6:20-7:20-8:50
The Menu (R) 2:30-5:20-8:40
An Action Hero (Hindi) 2:40-5:40-8:45
Bones and All (R) 2:10-5:10-8:20
Drishyam 2 (Hindi) 4:15-7:40
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:10-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 4:40
Violent Night (R) 1:00-4:00-7:00
The Mean One 1:15-3:35-6:00-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:30-2:00-4:05-5:00-5:30-8:30-9:00

Regal Manassas & IMAX 11380 Bulloch Drive
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 12:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:20-1:20-2:10-4:10-5:50-6:30-7:50
Black Adam (PG-13) 3:30
Prey for the Devil (PG-13) 7:10
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 12:15
Violent Night (R) 2:00-3:00-5:00-6:00-8:00
Strange World (PG) 12:50-1:50-3:30-6:10-7:10
The Menu (R) 1:30-4:40-7:45
An Action Hero (Hindi) 12:50-3:10-4:00-7:00-7:15
Bones and All (R) 12:30-3:40
Violent Night: The IMAX 2D Experience (R) 1:00-4:00-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 5:10
Violent Night (R) OC: 12:00
Strange World (PG) OC: 4:30

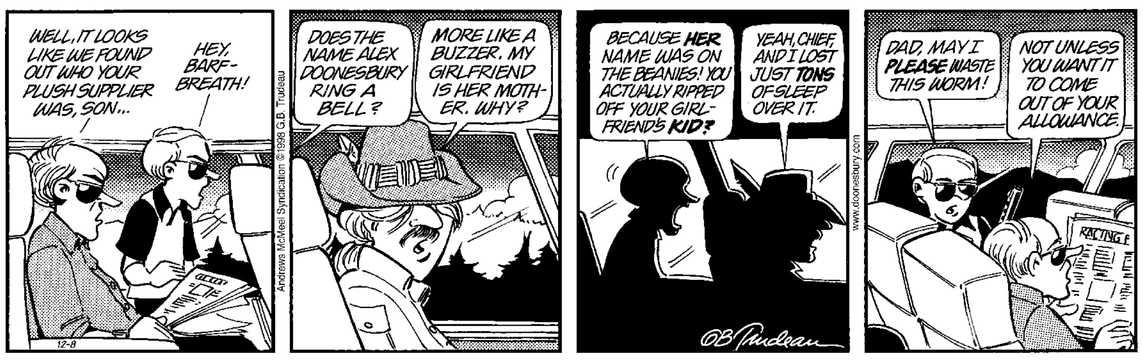
Regal Springfield Town Center 6859 Springfield Mall
It's a Wonderful Life (1946) (PG) 7:00
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 1:10-7:05
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:50-12:50-3:30-4:30-7:10-8:10
Black Adam (PG-13) 12:40-3:40
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Violent Night (R) 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:10
Strange World (PG) 12:20-3:20-4:20-6:20-9:15-10:10
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:40
Bones and All (R) 5:10-8:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3D (PG-13) 2:10
I Heard the Bells 2:00
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:00-7:50

Regal Virginia Gateway & RPX 8001 Gateway Promenade Place
Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) 3:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:30-3:10-6:50
Black Adam (PG-13) 10:10
EVANGELION:3.0+1.01 Thrice Upon a Time (Shin Evangelion Gekijōban) 7:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 10:25
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG) 12:05
Violent Night (R) 10:30
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:40-3:15-6:40-10:05
Strange World (PG) 12:20-1:25-3:05-4:20-6:10-8:50
Smyrna (Smírni mou Agapiméni) 7:00
The Menu (R) 12:30-4:30-7:15-9:55
Bones and All (R) 11:45-3:20-6:30-9:45
I Heard the Bells 12:00-6:20-7:00
Father Stu: Reborn (PG-13) 4:00-7:10-10:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:00-1:50-2:40-5:40-9:20-9:50
Violent Night (R) 11:50-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00

Smithsonian - Airbus IMAX Theater 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway
Journey to Space (2015) (NR) 10:20-1:15-3:30-4:55
To Fly! (1976) (NR) 10:50-1:55
Blue Planet (Il pianeta azzurro) (NR) 11:25-2:35
The Dream is Alive (NR) 12:20-4:05

University Mall Theatre 10659-A Braddock Road
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC; DVS: 12:45-4:00-7:15
Devotion (PG-13) CC; DVS: 1:00-4:10-7:30
Strange World (PG) CC; DVS: 12:10-2:20-4:30-7:00

CLASSIC DOONESBURY
GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES
BRIAN CRANE



BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE

NORTH
♠ Q J 6 5 4
♥ K 9 5 3
♦ 8
♣ 10 3 2

WEST
♠ A 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 10 5 4 2
♣ A J 9 7

EAST
♠ 7
♥ Q 8 6 4
♦ Q J 7 3
♣ Q 8 6 4

SOUTH (D)
♠ K 10 9 8 2
♥ A 10 2
♦ A 9 6
♣ K 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 4

Unlucky Louie had a check-up at his dentist.

"How did it go?" I asked.

"She said I need to take better care of my teeth," Louie told me grimly. "I'll floss that bridge when I come to it."

In a penny game, Louie played at four spades, and West led a diamond. The play looked straightforward: Louie took the ace and led a trump, and West won and led his last trump. Louie then led the A-K and a third heart. East took the queen and led a club, and Louie lost two clubs. Down one.

"Nothing I could do," Louie said.

"Floss daily and don't play so fast," I advised.

Louie gets home with careful play. He must wait to draw trumps: He ruffs a diamond in dummy at Trick Two, then leads a trump. West wins and returns a trump, and Louie wins and ruffs his last diamond.

Louie next cashes the king of hearts and leads a second heart ... to his 10. When West takes the jack, he must lead a helpful club or concede a ruff-sluff. Louie also succeeds if hearts break 3-3.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold:
♠ K 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ K 5

Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one spade and he raises to three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has a hand worth about 17 points with four-card support. Since he didn't open 1NT, his shape isn't balanced. If he holds A Q 5 3, 3, K Q 10 5 3, A 4 2, seven spades will be cold. A bid of 4NT, Blackwood, would be reasonable, as would a cue bid of four diamonds or four hearts. You will not stop below six spades.

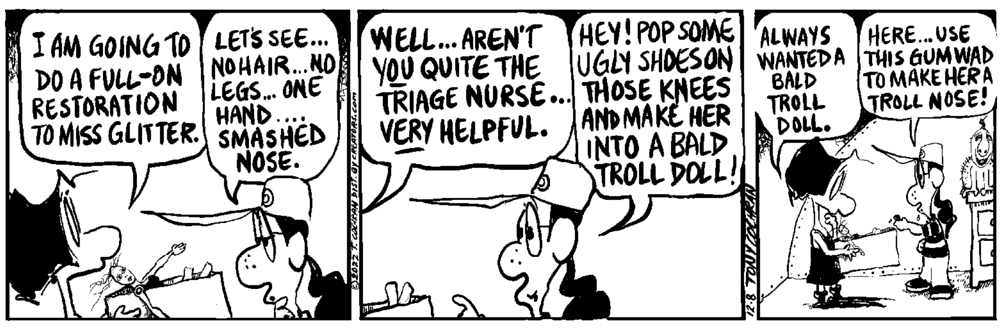
— Frank Stewart

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RED AND ROVER
BRIAN BASSET



AGNES
TONY COCHRAN



FRANK AND ERNEST
TOM THAVES



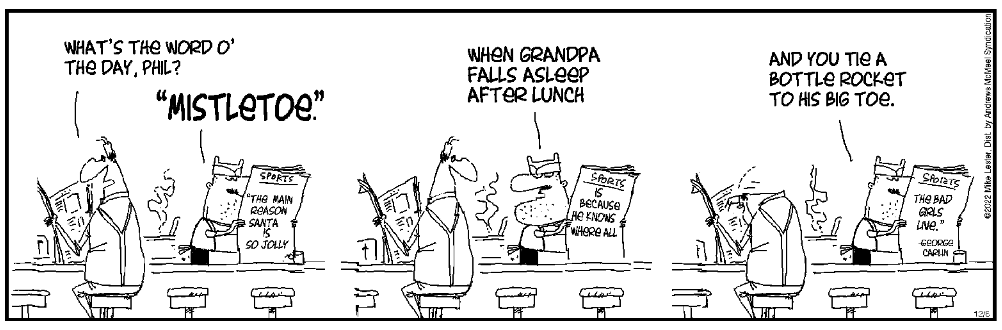
WUMO
MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER



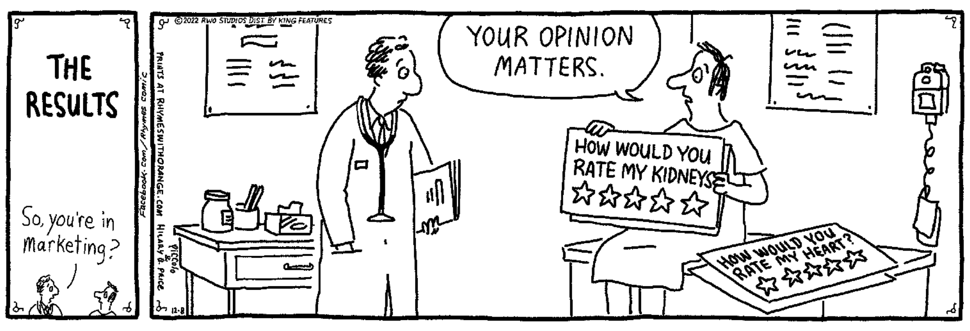
CLASSIC PEANUTS
CHARLES SCHULZ



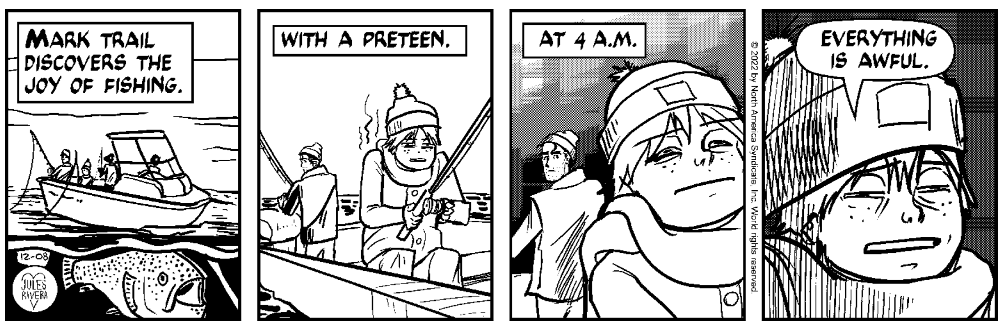
MIKE DU JOUR
MIKE LESTER



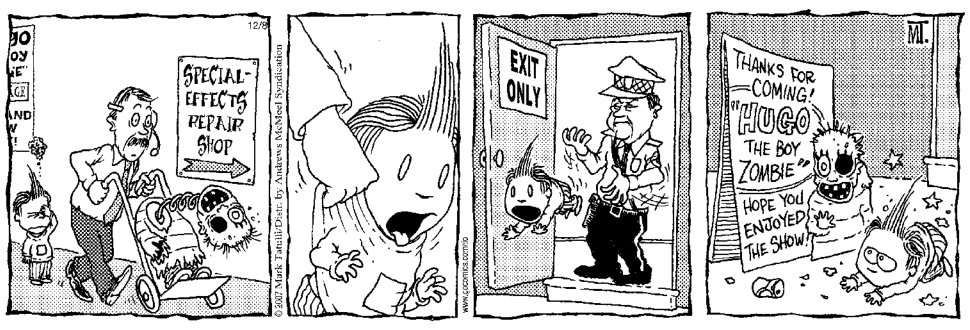
RHYMES WITH ORANGE
HILARY PRICE



MARK TRAIL
JULES RIVERA



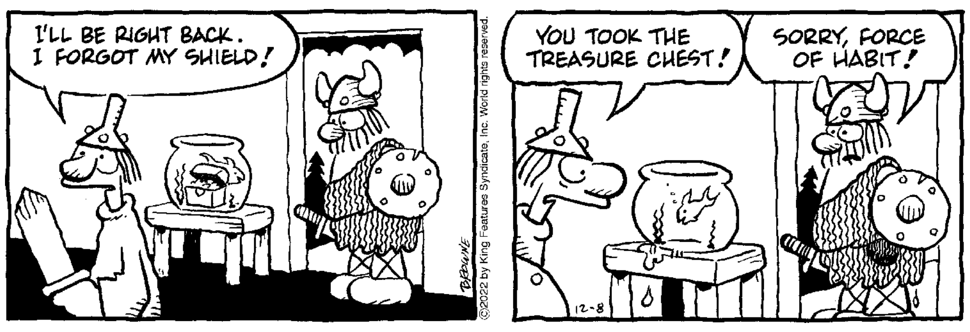
LIO
MARK TATULLI



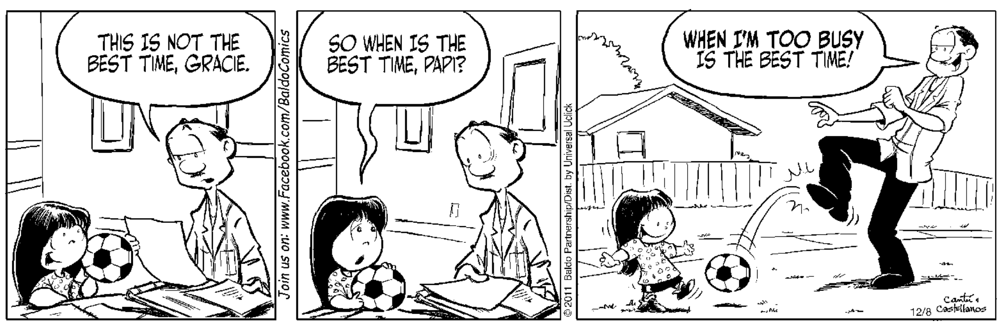
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
MIKE PETERS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE
CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO
HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE
DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH
FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	6		5	8			1	2
	9							
	8	4	1	9				
1					2		4	
		5		3		1		
	7		4					5
				4	9	3	6	
							9	
8	1			7	3		2	

12/8

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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Letters	Scoring	
E1 I1 T1 S1 H4 G2 L1		RACK 1
E1 O1 Y4 B3 N1 R1 M3	Double Word Score	RACK 2
E1 I1 L1 X8 P3 F4 R1		RACK 3
A1 E1 E1 I1 M3 L1 D2	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 4

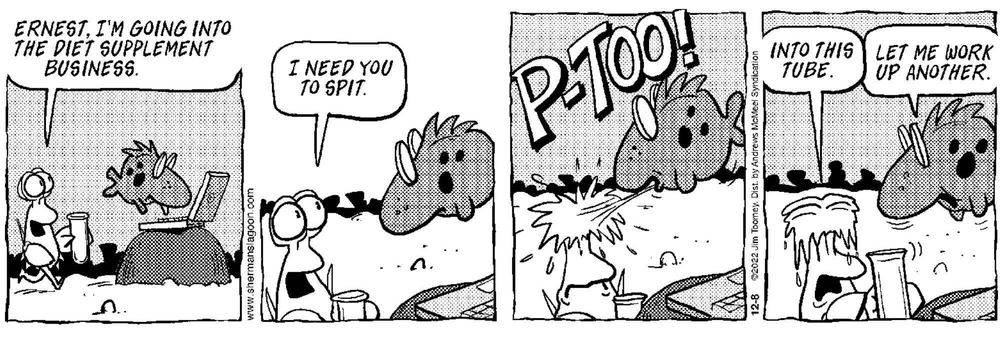
PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 223
FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

12-08

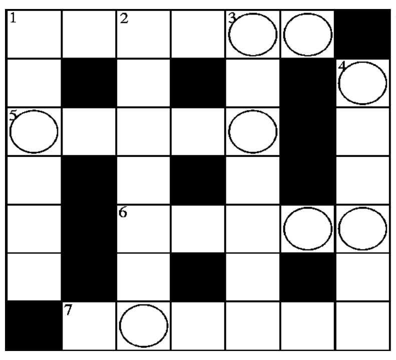
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
JIM TOOMEY



CURTIS
RAY BILLINGSLEY



JUMBLE CROSSWORDS
by David L. Hoyt



12-8-22

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Homing ____	NIEOGP
5. Nephew's sister	EICNE
6. Characteristic	RATTI
7. Selfish, stingy	ERGYDE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Eyebrow ____	PIECNL
2. Better	RGEETRA
3. Run	EPTEORA
4. Delicately	NELTYG

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How to play
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

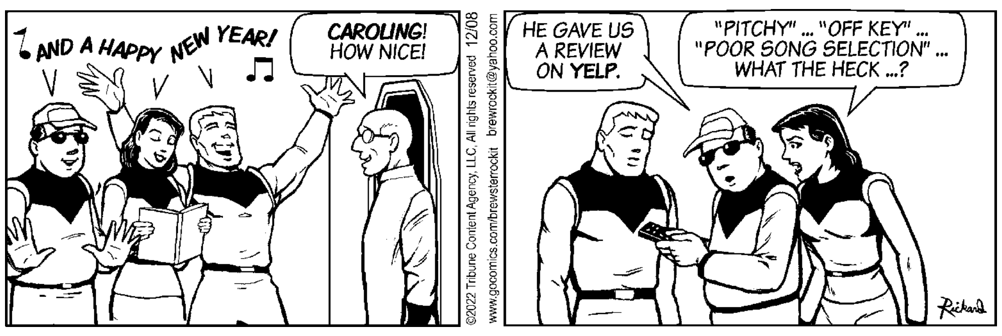
BONUS

CLUE: This is odorless, colorless and tasteless.

ANSWERS: 1A-Pigeon 5A-Niece 6A-Trait 7A-Greedy 1D-Pencil 2D-Greater 3D-Operate 4D-Gently B-Nitrogen

Send comments to TCA - 160 N. Stetson, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or DLHoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

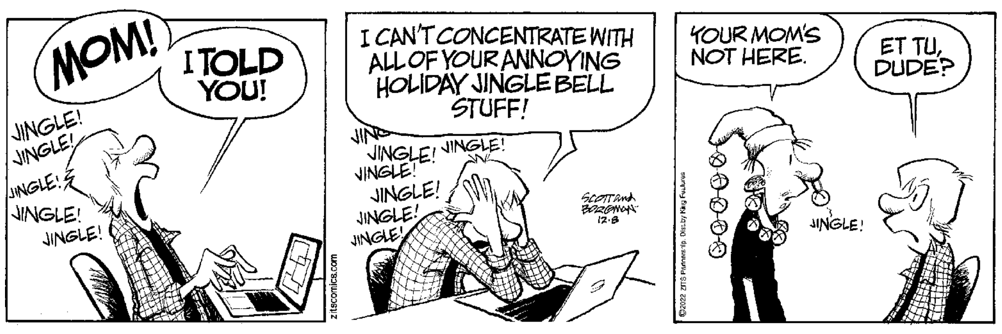
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!
TIM RICKARD



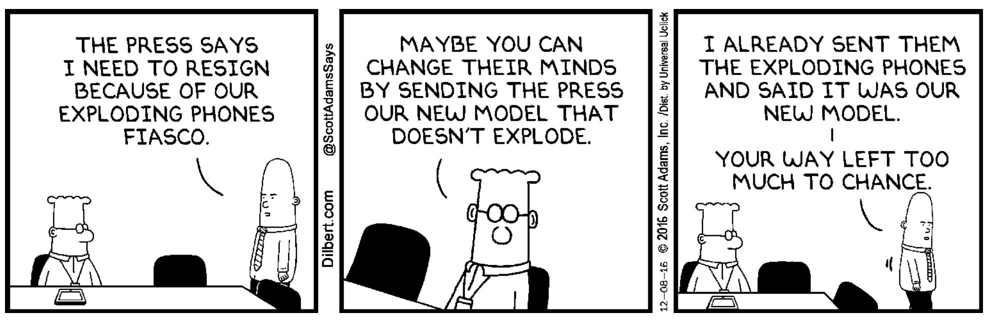
MUTTS PATRICK McDONNELL



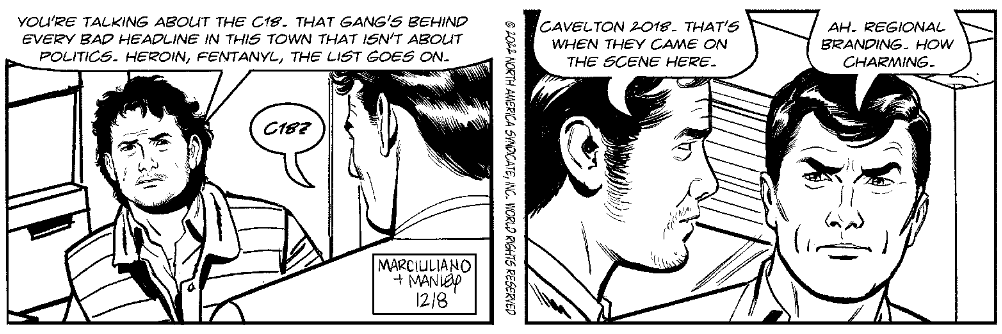
ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



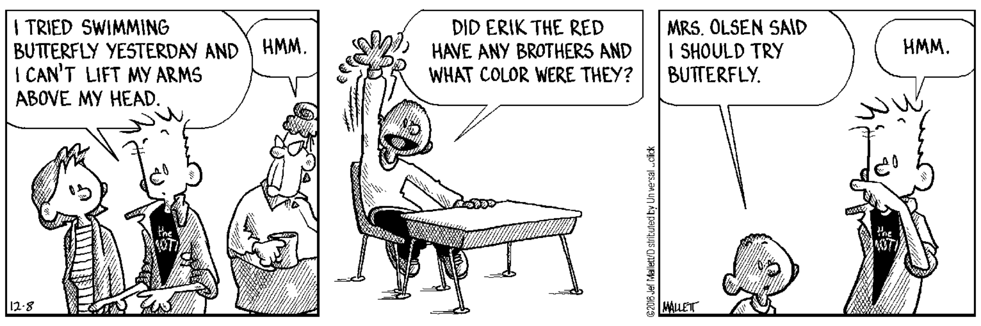
DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



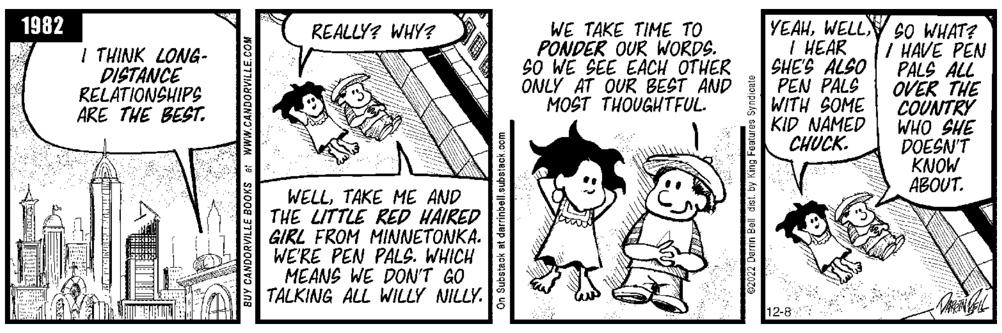
JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY



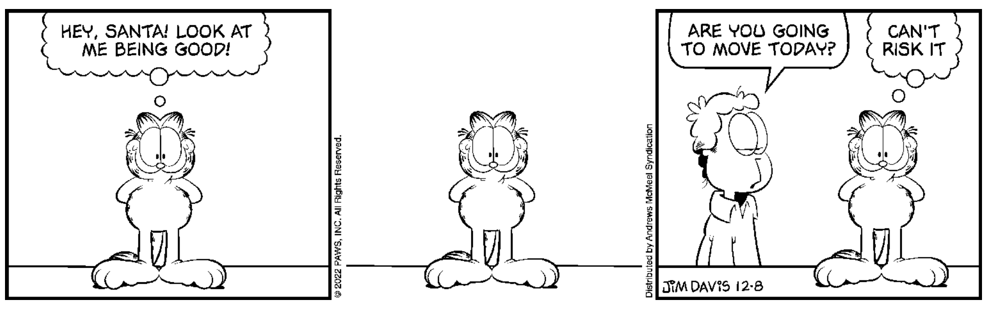
FRAZZ JEF MALLETT



CANDORVILLE DARRIN BELL



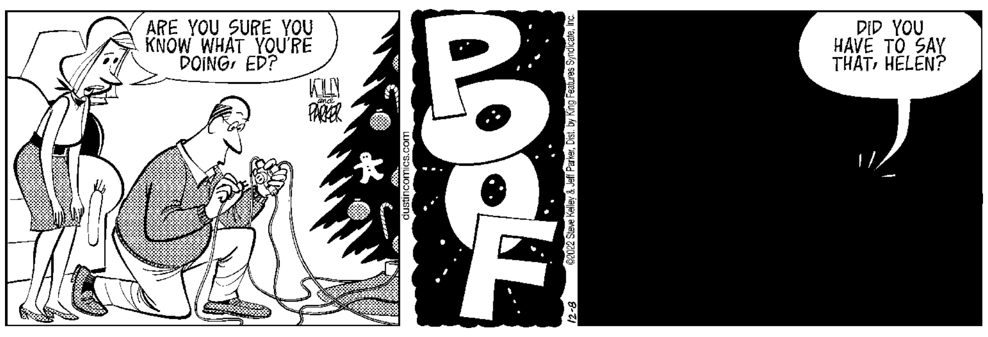
GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



BARNEY AND CLYDE WEINGARTENS & CLARK



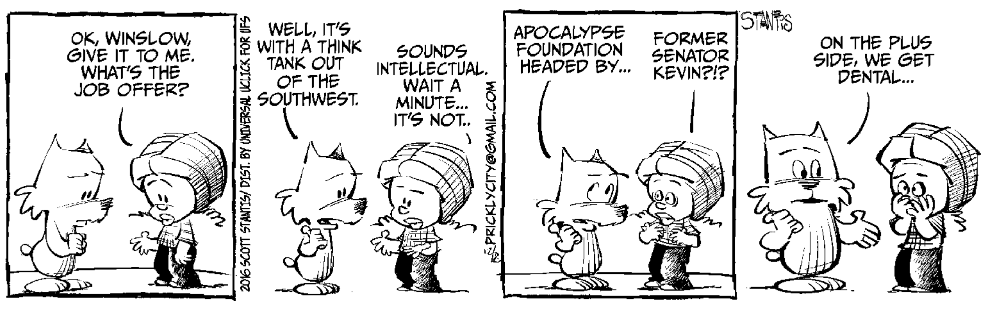
DUSTIN STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



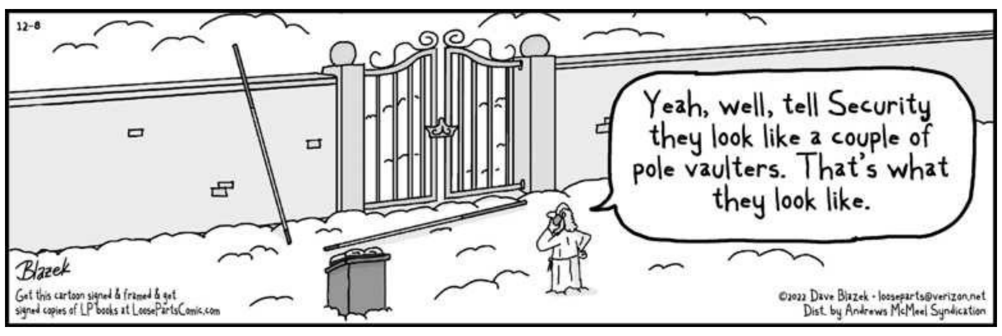
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN STAN LEE & ALEX SAVIUK



PRICKLY CITY SCOTT STANTIS



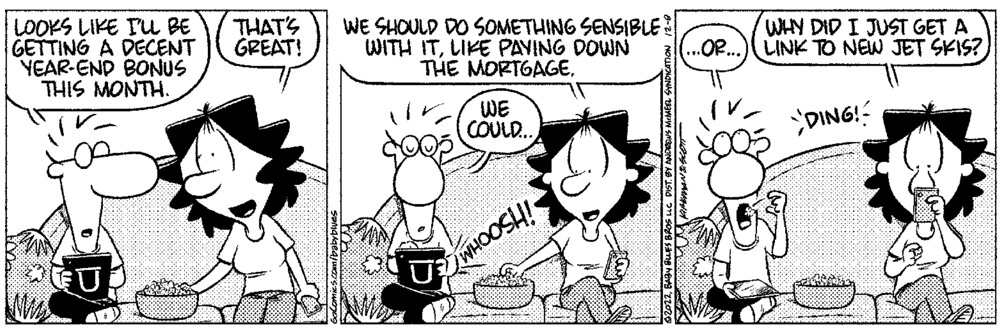
LOOSE PARTS DAVE BLAZEK



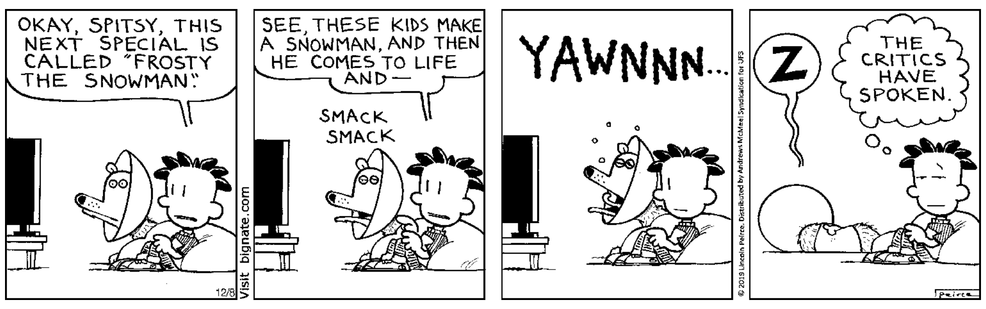
NON SEQUITUR WILEY



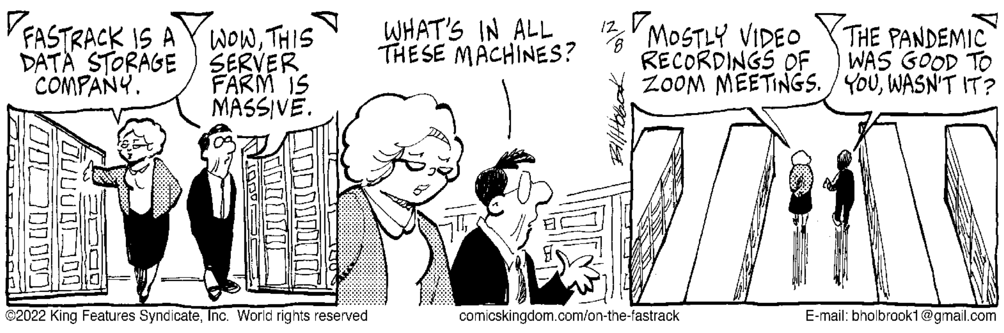
BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



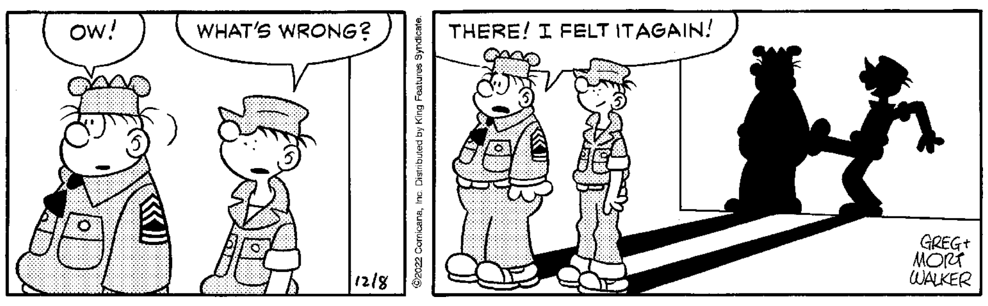
BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



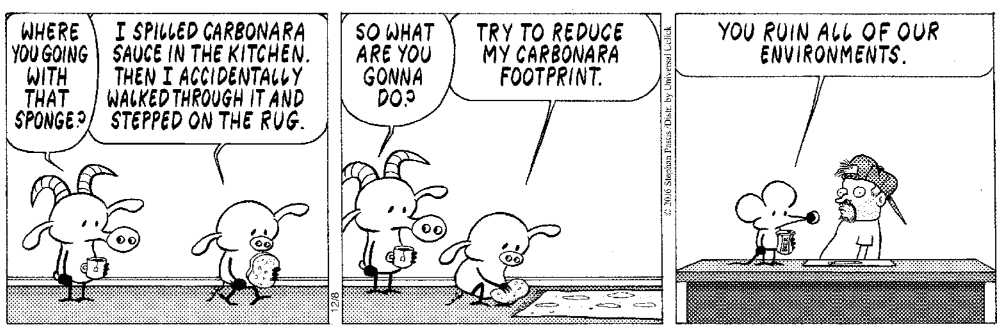
ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK



BEETLE BAILEY MORT, BRIAN & GREG WALKER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | DECEMBER 8

You are warm, friendly and optimistic. People enjoy your company because you are cheerful. You are also caring and generous. This is a winning year for you, which is why many of you will get promoted or receive awards or kudos for your talents and efforts. Bravo!

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions after 10 p.m. PST today. The Moon is in Gemini.

ARIES
(MARCH 21-APRIL 19).
Lighten up today, because it's all too easy to get pushy in debates about politics, religion or racial issues. You're ready to argue! (Let's face it, sometimes you like to argue.)

TAURUS
(APRIL 20-MAY 20).
Fiery debates about shared property, shared responsibilities, debt, insurance or inheritances might be sparked today. Generally, these important issues are not settled wisely through anger.

GEMINI
(MAY 21-JUNE 20).
This is a classic day for arguments with spouses, partners and close friends, because fiery Mars is in your sign opposing the Sun, which is opposite your sign. Oops! Bad Day at Black Rock! Use your common sense.

CANCER
(JUNE 21-JULY 22).
It might be challenging dealing with co-workers today or people related to your health or your pet, because something going on in your unconscious mind makes you trigger-happy and grumpy.

LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22).
Most Leos are not strict parents. They're friendly. Keep this in mind, because today you might be at odds with your kids. You also might be at odds with a romantic partner. Ditto for sports colleagues.

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22).
Because of some kind of confusion, you might have difficulty dealing with parents, older family members or authority figures today. The bottom line is you have to ask yourself what kind of day you want.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22).
Resist the urge to argue with daily contacts, siblings, relatives or neighbors today, because you might feel you have to confront someone. Examine what's at stake. Does this really matter?

SCORPIO
(OCT. 23-NOV. 21).
Money squabbles are likely today. They could be about who picks up the tab for something, earnings or how to share expenses. Perhaps this discussion about finances is a smoke screen for a power struggle.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21).
Do not blindly assert yourself today when dealing with partners or teammates, because you will be tempted to do so. In part, this is because you are identifying with your ego today. Me, me, me. (As we all do.)

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 19).
You are chatty now that Mercury is in your sign. You have something to say, and you want to enlighten others. However, this is a day when people are aggressive with each other, even subconsciously. You might feel defensive. Take a step back and watch what's going on around you.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 20-FEB. 18).
Friendships are important to you. Therefore, today, when you might feel aggression with friends or groups, take a moment and ask yourself what you are doing. Don't take the bait. Don't get suckered into an argument. Take the high road.

PISCES
(FEB. 19-MARCH 20).
Today is the classic day when you might find yourself at odds with authority figures – bosses, parents, teachers and the police. Family squabbles are also likely. But this doesn't have to happen if you choose to stay calm and not get involved.

— Georgia Nicols

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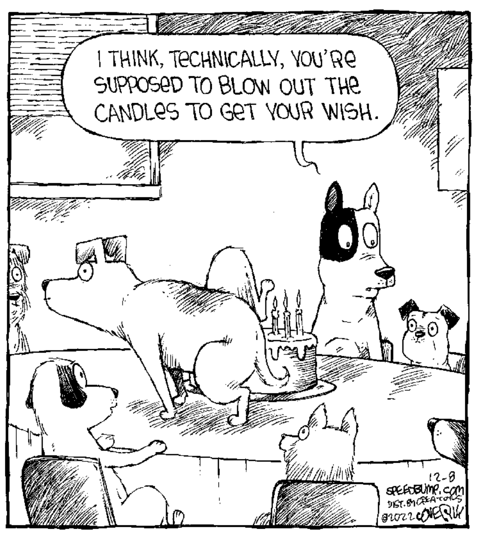
PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	2	8	5	1	3	7	4	6
1	3	5	7	4	6	2	9	8
4	7	6	9	2	8	3	1	5
3	9	2	6	7	1	8	5	4
6	5	4	3	8	2	9	7	1
8	1	7	4	5	9	6	2	3
2	4	9	8	6	5	1	3	7
7	6	3	1	9	4	5	8	2
5	8	1	2	3	7	4	6	9

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

M3	E1	A1	D2	O1	W4		RACK 1 =	12
C3	A1	T1	C3	A1	L1	L1	RACK 2 =	64
S1	U1	B3	P3	L1	O1	T1	RACK 3 =	61
B3	E1	R1	S1	E1	R1	K5	RACK 4 =	89
PAR SCORE 150-160							TOTAL	226

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM



"THIS MUST BE SANTA'S SHOWROOM!"

FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



"Christmastime is WHISPERtime!"

REPLY ALL LITE DONNA A. LEWIS



More online: washingtonpost.com/comics. Feedback: 1301 K St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20071; comics@washpost.com; 202-334-4775.

KIDSPOST

CHIP SAYS

On this day in 1961, basketball player Larry Costello scored 32 consecutive points without missing, setting a National Basketball Association record.



TODAY

Skies are mostly cloudy, high temperatures reach the middle 50s, and there may be rain.

ILLUSTRATION BY SAMRUDHI DEMBLA, 12, MCLEAN



KIDSPOST.COM

Find Fred Bowen's column about pickleball and Anna Leigh Waters in our online Score archive.



ARDEN S. BARNES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



ISTOCK

The Aspen Institute says fewer kids have been playing team sports in recent years, but interest in racket sports has soared, partly because of stars such as pickleball champ Anna Leigh Waters, 15, left. Kids also love to play soccer, above, tennis, basketball, baseball and football.

Pickleball is a hit with kids, but interest in team sports drops

The Score

FRED BOWEN

The Aspen Institute recently issued its annual report on kids' sports called "State of Play 2022." The Aspen Institute is an organization that studies lots of important issues, including kids' sports.

The report is full of interesting facts and trends that have occurred in the games kids play. So let's take a look.

Here are the five favorite competitive sports among kids ages 6 to 12:

1. Basketball
2. Baseball
3. Soccer
4. Tennis
5. Football, if you combine tackle and flag

(Bike riding is still kids' favorite activity.)

The big surprise on the list is tennis. There was a 29 percent growth of kids who played tennis on a regular basis between 2019 and 2021.

It makes sense that kids might want to play tennis during the coronavirus pandemic. The sport is a great workout, and you don't get close to your opponent during a match.

Another racket game that grew like wild is pickleball. The sport with the funny name is popular with grandparents, but kids like to play, too. Pickleball grew an amazing 83 percent from 2019 to 2021, attracting almost a half-million regular players among people ages 6 to 17.

One reason for pickleball's popularity among young people is that a big star in professional pickleball is a teenager: 15-year-old Anna Leigh Waters.

One sport that has fallen in popularity is tackle football. Participation in the rough-and-tumble sport among kids ages 6 to 12 has gone down 29 percent from 2016 to 2021. Clearly, parents are worried about kids getting their bodies (including the brain) injured.

That doesn't mean kids aren't playing football. Participation in flag football — a gentler game in which players "tackle" other players by taking a flag from their belt — grew 15 percent during the same period. Now more kids play flag football than tackle football.

The report revealed some other trends in the past few years. Some good and some not so good.

A good trend is that more parents and their kids are staying closer to home to play sports. More than half of kids (58 percent) have played their primary sport in a community-based program this fall (up from 38 percent last fall). That's great, because community-based teams are less expensive than travel teams and let more kids play.

Unfortunately, some kids seem to have lost interest in playing sports during the pandemic. Team sports participation is down. Only 37 percent of kids ages 6 to 12 played sports on a regular basis in 2021. That's way down from 2008, when 45 percent of kids played sports.

But even worse is that 27 percent of parents report that their kids' lack of interest in sports is what is keeping them from playing.

Hopefully that will change in 2023, and more kids will be on the courts and fewer on the couch.

Fred Bowen writes the sports opinion column for KidsPost. He is the author of 27 sports books for kids. His latest book is "Hardcourt: Stories From 75 Years of the National Basketball Association."

TODAY'S NEWS



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

The victory of Raphael Warnock, shown with family, helps Democrats control the Senate.

Raphael Warnock of Georgia reelected to U.S. Senate

Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock defeated Republican challenger Herschel Walker in a Georgia runoff election Tuesday, which means Democrats will have an outright majority in the Senate for the rest of President Joe Biden's term.

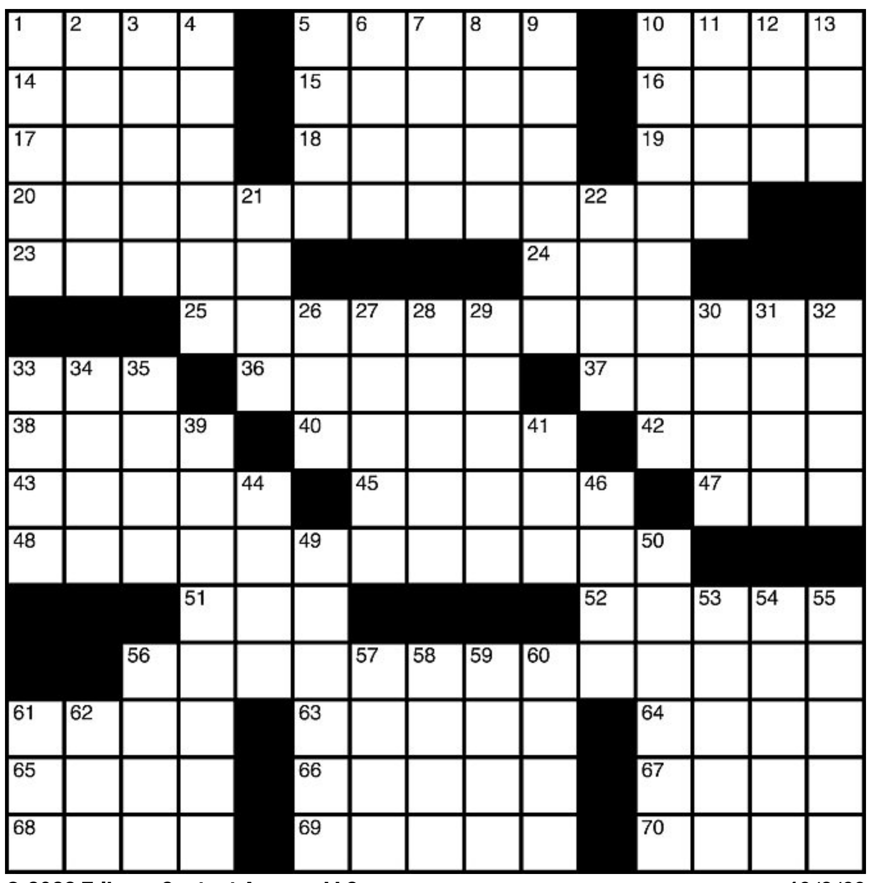
Democrats will have a 51-49 Senate majority in January, gaining a seat from the current 50-50 split with John Fetterman's victory in Pennsylvania. There will be divided government, however, with Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives.

In last month's election, Warnock, a pastor, led Walker by 37,000 votes out of almost 4 million cast, but fell short of the 50 percent of votes needed in Georgia to avoid a runoff. (Most states do not require the winner to receive at least half the votes.) The senator appeared to be headed for a wider final margin in the runoff with Walker, a former football player.

Democrats' outright majority in the Senate means the party won't have to rely on Vice President Kamala Harris to break tie votes.

— Associated Press

LA TIMES CROSSWORD By David Alfred Bywaters



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ACROSS

1 Courteous title
5 "Make tracks!"
10 Be rife (with)
14 __ mater
15 Fragrance
16 Fairy-tale antagonist
17 Expanding Asian desert
18 Temporarily unavailable
19 Work hard for
20 Band saw?
23 Tuned to, as a radio dial
24 Genetic material in some vaccines
25 Circular saw?
33 Trail behind
36 Photographer Leibovitz
37 Incline
38 Concerning
40 Zenith's opposite
42 Place to build
43 Back up an apology, say
45 Pampering treatments for feet, informally
47 Sad
48 Power saw?
51 Spot for a sleeve tattoo
52 Abates
56 Coping saw?
61 Stylish
63 City south of Gainesville
64 Image in the Timberland logo
65 Proficient
66 More up-to-date
67 Allow to borrow
68 "Cheers" bartender Woody
69 Accounting giant __ & Young
70 Finishes

DOWN

1 Wizard
2 Unaccompanied
3 Sphere of influence
4 Cocktail typically garnished with an orchid
5 Surface for beach volleyball
6 Imitate a rooster
7 Mechanical learning method
8 "Inside Story" novelist Martin
9 Words of incantation
10 Canvases for 45-Across
11 "Zounds!"
12 Make a blunder
13 Chaps
21 James who sang "At Last"
22 Inhabitants of a classroom "farm"
26 Travel guide listing
27 Round closers on a onesie
28 Not as narrow
29 Former North Dakota senator Heitkamp
30 Long part of a comet
31 Very much a fan of
32 Crockpot dish
33 Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
34 Opposed to
35 Rum-and-water quaff
39 Made better
41 Drilling structure
44 Raison d'__
46 Home of the N.Y. Mets until 2008
49 "Stick a fork in me"
50 Spill the beans
53 Tornado watch sound
54 Fix
55 Botanic beginnings
56 Unctuous
57 Aspire notebook maker
58 Show fatigue
59 Many taps in a brewpub
60 Fruit-filled dessert
61 Taxi
62 "Barry" cable network

WEDNESDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

A	W	O	L			S	X	S	W			B	I	B
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NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

She joined some couples on a beach vacation, but for excursions she was left on her own



Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

Dear Carolyn: We recently returned from a great vacation with friends we hadn't seen in over a year. One of our friends, "Dana," didn't have a good time and is blaming the rest of us.

We rented a huge house on a beautiful beach with another couple and Dana. She doesn't care for the beach but, during the planning stages, said she'd be fine since there were fun things to do in the area.

Once we got there, Dana kept trying to get someone to do day trips with her, but we just wanted to hang at the beach and be together catching up, so she went alone. The last night we were all lamenting having to leave when Dana said she couldn't wait — it was the worst vacation of her life. She said we all "froze her out," wouldn't do anything she wanted and stuck her with the worst room. Hers was the smallest of the three, and we had agreed the couples would get the two master suites and split the cost accordingly, meaning we all paid much more than she did.

We also made sure she also didn't pay as much for groceries, wine and beer. The house was luxurious, so she got a bargain, really.

I feel bad that Dana had a bad time, since she is one of my oldest friends, but did we do anything wrong? I thought the main point was for all of us to be together again, not run out trying to sightsee and shop. Shouldn't Dana have realized that people who love the beach were going to spend their time on the beach?

— Friend

Friend: So you didn't go with her even once? Anywhere?

And two couples really believed the only unpartnered member of the group imagined doing those "fun things" alone the entire time?

And coming back to her non-master suite? Which made for a reasonable room assignment on paper but in a climate of insult really just encapsulated everything?

And now you're looking to me to agree it was her fault she felt utterly extraneous? Since she "got a bargain really"?

I'm out of huffy rhetorical questions, so I'll conclude: Dana would probably have liked at least one friend to have shown an interest in spending time with her. Your contempt for her interests — "not run out trying to sightsee and shop" — is palpable.

Re: Dana: Sorry, but your answer was patronizing to single people. If Dana needs company for her outings, then she should choose her vacations accordingly. I would be mortified if someone joined me on a sightseeing trip out of pity.

— Anonymous

Anonymous: Groups involve attention to inclusion. To dismiss such mindfulness as "pity" weirdly absolves people of their responsibilities to each other to think inclusively. They care enough to travel together as friends, but not enough to spend any time with Dana on her terms? Wow.

More readers' thoughts:

- My single friends and I say, "It's the beach house thing," when coupled people automatically presume advantages for themselves, like the master suite with the deck and water view, while an unmarried sister shares the basement room with the 8-year-old niece. There are a lot of ways to allocate desirable things, people.
- … aaaaand this is why your single friends tend to ignore you once you get divorced or become widowed. The "smug marrieds" treatment cuts deeply.
- If I were Dana, I'd be reassessing these alleged friends and wondering how I could have missed the potential for this kind of unpleasant vacation. She "kept trying to get someone to do the day trips with her." That says it all.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

The Washington Post

SPORTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 M2 D

ON THE NFL
Jason La Canfora takes a spin on the GM carousel and offers insight into whose seats are starting to get hot. **D3**

WORLD CUP
Germany's exit was the biggest stunner of group play, but Hansi Flick will return as national team coach. **D5**

JOHN FEINSTEIN
The columnist has golf on his mind these days, especially Rory McIlroy, his sportsman of the year. **D7**



MITCHELL LEFF/GETTY IMAGES

Dylan Strome, center, had the go-ahead goal in the third period Wednesday night. The victory allowed the Capitals to finish their six-game trip with a 3-2-1 record.

Homeward bound

CAPITALS 4, FLYERS 1

Caps close longest trip of season with a victory in Philadelphia

BY GENE WANG

PHILADELPHIA — The travel-weary Washington Capitals arrived here for the finale of their longest trip of the season after nearly two weeks on the road. Their modest aspiration was beating the lowly Philadelphia Flyers to bump their record to .500.

A 4-1 victory that included a go-ahead goal from Dylan Strome in the third period and two empty-netters by Alex Ovechkin to seal the outcome instead left the Capitals jubilant in the visitors' dressing room at Wells Fargo Center — and singing "Happy Birthday" to Coach Peter Laviolette.

"The win was a good present," Laviolette, who turned 58, said after Washington collected seven of a possible 12 points on the six-game trip and evened its record at 12-12-4.

Kraken at Capitals
Tomorrow, 7 p.m., NBCSW Plus

Strome's decisive tally, his sixth goal of the season, came with 10:41 remaining. He redirected John Carlson's floating wrist shot past Flyers goalie Carter Hart. Ovechkin added career goals Nos. 794 and 795 to draw within seven of passing Gordie Howe for the second most all-time.

Ovechkin has 51 empty-net goals, the second most in NHL history behind Wayne Gretzky's 56. His second goal Wednesday, with 8.6 seconds left, drew the ire of Philadelphia's Travis Konecny, who shoved Ovechkin and had some pointed words. Konecny was assessed a 10-minute misconduct penalty as the Flyers fell to 9-13-5.

"They lost," Ovechkin said. "They have a character. They have a good group of guys. Obviously frustration. A big two points. We move on. I always say we have to collect the points."

Charlie Lindgren made 29 saves for the Capitals and dodged some drama when the Flyers' Kevin Hayes hit the pipe late in the third period when a goal would have tied it at 2. Lindgren earned his second straight win in place of ailing starter Darcy Kuemper.

SEE **CAPITALS** ON **D4**

Wizards are undone by Bulls' late run

BULLS 115, WIZARDS 111

BY KAREEM COPELAND

CHICAGO — Two-time all-star Zach LaVine was having a relatively quiet game before he sent the United Center crowd into a frenzy midway through the final quarter Wednesday night. On three straight trips, he shook free beyond the three-point arc, and each time he threw a dagger that cut the Washington Wizards.

When LaVine wasn't doing the damage in the fourth, DeMar DeRozan was. The pair combined for 26 of the Bulls' 35 fourth-quarter points to jump-start the hosts in a 115-111 win over Washington.

The Wizards, still without injured Bradley Beal, have lost four in a row and seven of eight.

"We knew at halftime they were probably underperforming," Wizards Coach Wes Unseld Jr. said of LaVine (25 points) and DeRozan (27). "We knew those two as well as [Nikola Vucevic] were going to step up and try to be more aggressive. And all three of them were. They impacted that

SEE **WIZARDS** ON **D4**

Wizards at Pacers
Tomorrow, 7 p.m., NBCSW

As Judge issues stay, Yankees can rejoice

AL home run king agrees to deal for nine years and $360 million

BY CHELSEA JANES

SAN DIEGO — Brian Cashman's sentences wound and ran on, doubled back and petered out. The New York Yankees general manager had spent a sleepless Tuesday night at baseball's winter meetings texting Aaron Judge, checking in with owner Hal Steinbrenner (who was calling Judge) and texting Judge's agent. And waiting.

By Wednesday morning, Cashman was in the complicated situation of being unable to acknowledge what had been widely reported: The newly minted American League MVP had chosen to return to the Yankees for a reported nine years and $360 million. Unlike Judge's foundation, which tweeted "Case closed" and

SEE **MLB** ON **D5**

Freeze joins Auburn's long-running soap opera

Even by the SEC's cutthroat standard, the program is rife with plots of succession and spite

BY KENT BABB

The newest episode of a classic American soap opera dropped last week with a twist that was predictable as could be but stunning all the same. There was Hugh Freeze, familiar and convincing and slippery as ever, being introduced as Auburn's new football coach.

"Man, what an honor," Freeze said, wearing a burnt-orange necktie and pocket square. "War Eagle."

For nearly an hour, he talked. About his Christian faith. His plans. His gratitude for Liberty University, where he spent the past four seasons, drawing attention both for guiding the Eagles into the top 25 *and* coaching a game from a hospital bed inside the press box. He beat back tears and took a veiled shot at Mississippi, from which Freeze resigned in 2017 after it was revealed he had used his university-issued phone to contact an escort service while on recruiting trips.

It was dramatic and emotional — quintessential Freeze. And classic SEC, with all of its cartoonish decadence. It was also Auburn acknowledging what really matters in major college football and maybe always has. Win or get lost. Recruit or die. Still, it was a little surprising it was the Tigers who resurrected Freeze's career and made him the public face of the university's athletic department, effectively a corporation that generated $123.5 million in revenue last year. But the moment demanded a splash.

Auburn, which won the 2010

SEE **AUBURN** ON **D2**



TODD VAN EMST/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athletic Director John Cohen, right, last week hired Hugh Freeze, a football coach with baggage from his time at another SEC school.

As world tunes in to the Cup, only a few Commanders join

BY SAM FORTIER

In late November, when the United States and England played to a scoreless draw in the group stage of the World Cup, several Washington Commanders suddenly seemed to care about soccer.

Even though the team is made up of men between the ages of 22 and 32 — part of a key demographic fueling the rise of soccer popularity in the United States — only a handful of players care for the sport. The televisions in Washington's locker room rarely show soccer games, and most players aren't following the World Cup. The few soccer fans on the Commanders watch games on their phones or in the equipment room, where the TVs always seem to be showing a game.

But that afternoon in November, some teammates celebrated the draw by teasing defensive end Efe Obada, who was born in Nigeria and raised in England. Defensive linemen Jonathan Allen and Casey Toohill were reportedly among the players who spent the day chanting, "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

"They're like: 'Oh, it's our fifth sport! Imagine if we cared about [soccer]!' " Obada said.

"Just like the Americans," said defensive tackle David Bada, who was born and raised in Germany. If the United States had actually won, he joked, Allen and Toohill might have draped the whole building in American flags.

Despite the old joke — that

SEE **COMMANDERS** ON **D3**

Commanders bye week
Next: Giants, Dec. 18, 8:20 p.m.

Characters change, but Auburn's soap opera keeps renewing

AUBURN FROM **D1**

national championship to cap a decade in which the Tigers dominated in-state rival Alabama, had just suffered its first back-to-back losing seasons since the 1990s. A civil war last winter pitted the university against its own football program and played a role in top-to-bottom personnel changes. After losing 11 of its past 15 games against Alabama and legendary coach Nick Saban, Auburn was desperate — so desperate that committing $6.5 million annually to Freeze, assuming the public-relations backlash and dividing Auburn's mega-vocal, possibly delusional fan base seemed necessary to new athletic director John Cohen and university president Chris Roberts, both less than seven months into their jobs.

"Is this the first time an Auburn AD has been willing to do something that makes Auburn fans *mad*?" said one prominent football booster, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, fearing retribution for airing the program's dirty laundry. "Maybe, because if it had been any other AD, he would've passed on Hugh because he's got to go see if we can get Billy Graham to coach this team. He's actually made a decision right out of the gate that he knew he was going to take a ton of s--- for."

Auburn is a particularly unusual place, in a particularly unusual conference of America's strangest game. Fans celebrate wins by throwing rolls of toilet paper over ancient oak trees (which an Alabama fan poisoned in 2010) and greet each other with the school's battle cry, "War Eagle," even though its mascot is the Tigers. This little patch of eastern Alabama is referred to locally as "The Plains," though it's actually quite hilly.

College football is magical and absurd because of these microcultural eccentricities, and every school's fans think their team — and *only* their team — is doing things the right way. The sport is one giant church of the devoted, with each pew observing its own doctrine while sneering at all the rest.

These past eight years, since Auburn's most recent appearance in the national championship game, have been a period of increasing frustration. Alabama, the Tigers' hated in-state rival, has won three national titles since and dominated the programs' annual game, the Iron Bowl. Conference realignment and the transfer portal, skyrocketing coaching salaries and compensating players for their names, images and likenesses have dramatically changed the sport and made it all the more cutthroat, its boosters and decision-makers less patient, its fans that much weirder.

In other words, it has made Auburn somehow even more *Auburn*.

The past decade on the Plains has been filled with ongoing investigations of the athletic department and questions about who actually calls the shots. Even by the standards of the SEC, where boosters have a reputation for exerting their influence, there's an unusual power vacuum in Auburn's football program, which is supposedly led by a three-man cabal of ultrarich, short-fused donors and a wider community of impatient fans with an insatiable thirst for vengeance.



DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

Before taking the Auburn job, Tommy Tuberville asked: "How many bosses I would have? . . . You can only answer to only so many people."

A few years ago, the Alabama Media Group ranked the most powerful sports figures in the state. Saban was first, of course, followed by SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. The two top-ranked individuals associated with Auburn weren't coaches or ADs or former stars such as Cam Newton, Bo Jackson or Charles Barkley. They were investment giant Raymond Harbert and lumber mogul Jimmy Rane. The former is the son of a construction billionaire who once borrowed $3 million from his inheritance to start his own wealth management firm. The latter is the richest person in Alabama, known for taking football coaches on fishing trips to remote Alaska and including them in Old West-themed YellaWood commercials that feature Rane in an all-yellow cowboy outfit, often on horseback, playing a country-fried hero called the "Yella Fella."

Before Tommy Tuberville became Auburn's coach in 1999, his most important question to those courting him was, "How many bosses I would have?" he told the Dallas Morning News then.

"I had heard all these horror stories," Tuberville said then. "You can only answer to only so many people, and I had heard that certain people were very involved."

Indeed, four years later, amid a disappointing 2003 season and Tuberville's poor recruiting, another politically connected booster secretly flew to Louisville alongside Auburn's president and AD in a failed attempt to replace Tuberville with his former offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino. The school's leadership decided during the season to fire Tuberville, and though the Alabama game hadn't yet been played, the president was in a hurry to lock down Petrino and start his extended Thanksgiving vacation to Texas. But fans learned of the plot, felt bad for Tuberville and pressured the school to retain him, which it did.

The president and AD would be forced out because of their handling of the episode, and two decades later, fans still refer to "JetGate" as an embarrassing chapter in a long-running saga. Tuberville is now a U.S. senator after he successfully recruited nearly 1.4 million votes in 2020. Tuberville didn't respond to The Washington Post's calls and text messages requesting an interview for this story.

Auburn declined requests to interview Harbert, Rane or another member of the school's board of trustees, and none responded to texts and emails seeking comment. The school provided a statement from one trustee describing that a different trustee "advised" Cohen during the hiring process and the board later "supported and endorsed Freeze." Rane and Harbert are members of Auburn's 15-member board but were not named in the statement.

"There are so many kind, loving, wonderful people," a former Auburn athletics administrator said on the condition of anonymity to avoid professional repercussions. "But, man, if that football team is not winning, it doesn't matter if you're a blood relative; they're done with you. People that you think support you or are friends, it's just all of a sudden, within a day or two, they're not. They're against you."

All major programs have wealthy alumni who pay millions for access and influence. But most schools establish boundaries and create the impression that the AD actually hires and fires head coaches. Not so at Auburn, according to current and former employees and others close to the program.

The tenure of Gene Chizik comes to mind. Hired in 2008, he successfully recruited eventual Heisman Trophy winner Newton and, three years later, went undefeated and won the school's first national championship in a half-century. He appeared to be building one of the SEC's strongest programs, albeit one that reportedly changed players' grades to keep them eligible and bribed would-be draft picks to stay in school. (The NCAA investigated but never issued sanctions.)

Two years after the championship, Auburn went 3-9, including a 49-0 beatdown from Alabama, and supporters decided Chizik was cooked. So the school fired him.

His replacement, Gus Malzahn, never had a losing season and came within 13 seconds and three points of another national title in 2013. But Malzahn couldn't recruit or win like Saban, whose trophy-filled office is 150 miles from Auburn's campus. Close enough to the Tigers' anxiety-ridden decision-makers, the prominent donor says, that "it's made them crazy."

Fans declared Malzahn finished, too, and nobody in the athletic department publicly stood up for him. Perhaps that's understandable, considering the FBI was investigating the men's basketball program at the time and the softball coach resigned after a former player accused the coach of multiple instances of sexual harassment. Regardless, Auburn fired Malzahn with $21.5 million remaining on his fully guaranteed contract, an amount that led to a budget shortfall in 2021.

"Is there not somebody on the inside, somebody internally that just sits back and says, 'Shh, be quiet; give this a chance'?" the former administrator said. "That's just it: That doesn't happen. It's about that outside influence."

With administrative salaries rising alongside increasing pressure, the former administrator said, Auburn officials have traditionally said nothing in an attempt to protect their own skin.

"It's almost kind of that mob mentality," this individual said. "Once that mob is going, we've just got to cave in to what the mob is saying. You don't want to get pitchforked yourself."

With Malzahn chased off, Auburn pursued and was turned down by some of the sport's rising talents, including Billy Napier (now at Florida) and Brent Venables (Oklahoma), who later said his decision had been based on doubts about the school's power structure. Against the wishes of Auburn boosters, Tigers AD Allen Greene landed on Bryan Harsin, who went 6-7 in his first season and refused to disclose whether he had received a coronavirus vaccine even though the university had mandated vaccination for all employees.

More than a dozen players entered the transfer portal, including one who posted on Instagram that Harsin treated players "like dogs." Defensive coordinator Derek Mason, whose daughter is immunocompromised, took a $400,000 pay cut to leave Auburn for the same position at Oklahoma State, and three other assistants were fired or resigned. Austin Davis, hired to replace Mike Bobo as offensive coordinator, quit after 43 days. Of the 18 players Harsin signed in the Class of 2021, 10 have since entered the transfer portal.

Then, in February, came murmurs that Harsin mistreated players and rumors about his personal life. Auburn hired a law firm to pore over Harsin's behavior. The coach spent part of a family vacation to Mexico defending himself, and by the time he returned, Auburn had adopted the "Employee Duty to Cooperate Policy."

Later in February, Harsin, who didn't respond to text messages or calls for this story, attended the SEC's annual coaches meeting at the conference's Birmingham office. Saban arrived in a Mercedes, and Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher showed up in an Audi. Harsin was driven to the meeting by an Alabama state trooper.

The next day, Auburn President Jay Gogue issued a statement declaring the investigation over; Harsin was still the Tigers' coach. Gogue added that Harsin had been "completely cooperative" and blamed social media for creating a scene. Harsin seemed to suspect Auburn boosters, some of whom wanted a different coach to replace Malzahn, were behind it.

"It was uncomfortable. It was unfounded, and it presented an opportunity for people to personally attack me, my family and also our program," he told reporters at the SEC's annual media gathering. "And it didn't work."

Gogue retired in July, and Greene resigned eight days before the Tigers' football season opener and five months before his contract expired. Tennessee AD Danny White congratulated Greene on Twitter for "getting the heck out of a crazy situation."

This season, Harsin was fired after a 3-5 start, ostensibly by interim AD Rich McGlynn, replaced on an interim basis by popular former Auburn running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams. With no one left to fire and another $15.3 million due to settle Harsin's buyout and add to the athletic department's strained ledger, the supposed mob had done its worst.

Last month, Auburn's third president in five years introduced its third AD in four years. The university's prevailing message behind the scenes has been that Cohen can neither be bought by donors nor swayed by fan outcry, and this has supporters feeling optimistic — for now.

Cohen, a former college baseball coach, is gruff and to-the-point. In a phone interview, he was asked directly whether any booster instructed him to hire Freeze.

"Absolutely not," he said. "It was my decision, and I was hired at Auburn University with the understanding that these decisions were going to be mine. . . . I've had a number of donors, board members, boosters telling me to do the research and to make my own decision: 'We trust you.' And I did."

Freeze praised Cohen's "backbone" during his introductory news conference and claimed his late-night direct message on Twitter last summer to a former Liberty student who was among the plaintiffs in a 2021 lawsuit against the school for its alleged mishandling of sexual assault cases was "an inadvertent misstep with no ill intent."

He also denied reports that his employment at Auburn was contingent on relinquishing control of his social media accounts. The rumor alone was enough to renew hope among some die-hard fans, even the ones who have watched this show for years, because they believe Freeze can be controlled. And that's enough to make this episode feel different.

"I bet Hugh can stay on Twitter," the booster said. "But I bet Cohen has told him, 'I can take anything down if I don't like it.' Yes, he's allowed to use it and, yes, he's on a very short leash. There are adults in the room now."

DIGEST

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Some Virginia players granted extra season

Members of the Virginia football team in their final year of eligibility were granted an extra season by the NCAA, a spokesman for the Cavaliers confirmed Wednesday.

School officials made a request for the special dispensation from the NCAA in the wake of last month's on-campus shooting that killed players **Lavel Davis Jr.**, **Devin Chandler** and **D'Sean Perry**.

Virginia elected not to play its final two games, including its finale at rival Virginia Tech on Nov. 26, to give the team and players' families time to mourn after a gunman opened fire on a charter bus that was returning to campus from a school trip to Washington on Nov. 13. A game against Coastal Carolina on Nov. 19 also was canceled. The Cavaliers finished 3-7 under first-year coach **Tony Elliott**.

Players and the coaching staff instead spent the weekend after Thanksgiving attending the funerals of Perry, a junior linebacker, in Miami and Chandler, a junior wide receiver, in Virginia Beach. The funeral for Davis, a junior wide receiver, was last week in Charleston, S.C.

All three players were awarded degrees posthumously, Virginia academic officials announced, from the College of Arts & Sciences. Athletic Director **Carla Williams**, who attended the funerals with school president **Jim Ryan**, distributed the degrees to the families of the slain players.

— Des Bieler and Gene Wang

Louisville is finalizing a deal to hire Purdue's **Jeff Brohm** as its coach, a person with knowledge of the situation told the Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been finalized.

Brohm, 51, would replace **Scott Satterfield**, who left the Cardinals on Monday after four seasons to become Cincinnati's coach. Brohm, a Louisville native and former Cardinals quarterback, is 66-44 in his coaching career and 36-34 at Purdue, which he guided to the Big Ten championship game this season.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available. . . .

Minnesota Coach **P.J. Fleck** had his contract extended by an additional year with a $1 million raise in annual salary.

The seven-year deal will run through 2029, the university announced without releasing terms.

Fleck will make $6 million per year, a person with knowledge of the contract confirmed. The Gophers play Syracuse in the Pinstripe Bowl on Dec. 29. . .

Kentucky quarterback **Will Levis** said he will declare for the NFL draft and skip the Music City Bowl against Iowa.

Projected as a first-round selection, Levis completed 65.4 percent of his passes for 2,406 yards and 19 touchdowns with 10 interceptions.

SOCCER

D.C. United continued to rebuild its defense with the addition of **Mohanad Jeahze**, an Iraqi national team left back acquired on a transfer from Swedish club Hammarby.

Jeahze, 25, signed a three-year contract with an option for the 2026 season, United announced. The club used targeted allocation money to complete the deal, putting Jeahze in the tier of players just below its highest-paid stars, designated players **Christian Benteke** and **Taxi Fountas**. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Born and raised in the Swedish city of Linkoping, Jeahze represented Sweden at the youth level but remained eligible to play for Iraq through familial ties and debuted for its national team last year in World Cup qualifying.

He has spent his entire professional career in Sweden and played the past three seasons for Hammarby, recording five goals and 19 assists in 89 appearances.

— Thomas Floyd

MISC.

The Lawn Tennis Association was fined $1 million by the ATP for banning players from Russia and Belarus from its grass-court events this past summer.

The governing body of British tennis banned the players from five Wimbledon warmup tournaments following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The ATP, which oversees men's tennis outside of the Grand Slams, warned the LTA that it could lose its membership in the organization if it decides to maintain the ban. . . .

Timothy Bradley Jr. and **Rafael Marquez**, two-division champions whose exciting styles earned them "Fight of the Year" honors, and former British star **Carl Froch** were elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame. . . .

Pat Hughes, the longtime radio voice of the Chicago Cubs, won the Hall of Fame's Ford C. Frick Award for excellence in baseball broadcasting. . . .

North Carolina field hockey coach **Karen Shelton** is retiring after a 42-year run that ended with the Tar Heels going unbeaten to claim a 10th national championship, an NCAA record.

— From news services and staff reports

TELEVISION AND RADIO

NFL

8:15 p.m.	**Las Vegas at Los Angeles Rams** » Prime Video, WJFK (106.7 FM)

NBA

7:30 p.m.	**Los Angeles Clippers at Miami** » NBA TV
10 p.m.	**Denver at Portland** » NBA TV

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 p.m.	**Rutgers at Ohio State** » ESPN2
8 p.m.	**Iowa State at Iowa** » Fox Sports 1
9 p.m.	**Michigan at Minnesota** » Big Ten Network
9 p.m.	**Colorado State at Colorado** » ESPN2
10 p.m.	**Jacksonville State at Utah** » Pac-12 Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6:30 p.m.	**Maryland at Purdue** » Big Ten Network
8 p.m.	**Kansas at Arizona** » Pac-12 Network

GOLF

5 a.m.	**DP World Tour: Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, first round** » Golf Channel

NCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT, REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

11 a.m.	**Oregon vs. Nebraska** » ESPNU
Noon	**Ohio State vs. Minnesota** » ESPN2
1:30 p.m.	**Baylor at Louisville** » ESPNU
2:30 p.m.	**Marquette at Texas** » ESPN2
3:30 p.m.	**Florida vs. Pittsburgh** » ESPNU
6 p.m.	**Penn State at Wisconsin** » ESPNU
8 p.m.	**Kentucky vs. San Diego** » ESPNU
10:30 p.m.	**Houston at Stanford** » ESPNU

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

From Houston to Denver, pressure on GMs heats up

On the NFL

JASON LA CANFORA

The NFL general manager carousel never gets as much attention as the league's seemingly constant coaching churn.

In general, there is less GM turnover from year to year — it helps your job security when you watch games from the suite, sitting next to the owner, and can point out everyone else's flaws — and general managers usually have a far lower profile than coaches. But some change is inevitable, and undoubtedly there will be moves made in those ranks in the next offseason. Firing a general manager in-season — as the Tennessee Titans shockingly did with Jon Robinson on Tuesday — can be complicated, with preparations for free agency and the draft already underway. Those moves typically come after the season and, with increasing frequency in recent years, right after the draft.

There has been increasing chatter about the Houston Texans making more front-office changes after the season, and multiple executives I have spoken with believe General Manager Nick Caserio is not on nearly as solid footing as he was in the past. Longtime Caserio ally Jack Easterby, a former team chaplain in New England when Caserio was there who rose to become the most influential executive in Houston, was abruptly fired in October. The Texans are the NFL's lone one-win team and are facing another looming coaching decision; having Caserio fire Lovie Smith one year after also making David Culley a one-and-done seems untenable to some in the NFL agent and executive communities. Starting entirely from scratch might have better optics.

If the Texans do, in fact, believe another coaching change is in order, several general managers I have talked to said they did not think Caserio would be there to fire Smith and be a part of the next hiring cycle. Houston's rebuild has been agonizing, with signs of progress limited at best, and Houston's ownership has been erratic since Cal McNair took over after his father's death in 2018.

"Keep your eye on that one," said one high-ranking NFL official who has interviewed with the Texans in the past and knows the organization well but who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is precluded from discussing other organizations publicly. "I don't think Nick gets to fire another coach, especially with Easterby gone. I'm hearing there is more to come there."

Denver Broncos General Manager George Paton's job security remains a topic of speculation as well. The Russell Wilson trade (and signing) has been a total flop, the hiring of rookie coach Nathaniel Hackett seemed doomed from the onset — and all of that was done before a new ownership group came in. The Waltons have unlimited resources, so eating the contracts for a coach and GM might not seem all that cost-prohibitive to them. There is a mounting consensus that Hackett will not return — "They can't sell that to their fans in 2023," one general manager said — and three executives I spoke to believe front-office changes are more probable than not in Denver.

Executives are anticipating the Arizona Cardinals to have a new coach next season as well, though it remains to be seen whether General Manager Steve Keim, who has overseen myriad poor rosters and put together most of Arizona's coaching staffs, will be let go.

The Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers already fired their coaches. Panthers interim coach Steve Wilks has strong support within the organization; the team has played hard for him despite an odious quarterback situation, and several executives believe it's possible Wilks lands the full-time job. That would bode well for Carolina General Manager Scott Fitterer, who began separating himself from outgoing coach Matt Rhule back in 2021, according to numerous people privy to that dynamic. Staving off a coaching hire would help his cause.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even though General Manager George Paton, above, traded for Russell Wilson, the Broncos have struggled to score this season.

Colts General Manager Chris Ballard has been seemingly neutered by owner Jim Irsay's handling of the coaching and quarterback situations. Irsay has said Ballard is safe, but he also gave Frank Reich repeated votes of confidence before tossing him out to hire Jeff Saturday even though the latter had no experience above the high school level. It remains to be seen whether Saturday is long for this task or what high jinks Irsay might be up to next.

I also continue to hear a Jaguars front-office shake-up is forthcoming, with Trent Baalke perhaps sticking around in another role but with his future as a general manager very much in the balance. Coach Doug Pederson could come away with more power in Jacksonville.

Three impactful trades

A month removed from the trade deadline, I asked a few executives how they would review some of the most critical acquisitions now that those players have settled in with their new teams.

Three deals stood out.

The Baltimore Ravens' front seven has been markedly better with Roquan Smith joining Patrick Queen at inside linebacker. It was a steep price to pay for a potential rental — a second- and a fifth-round pick — especially for an off-ball linebacker who doesn't provide much pass rush, but the move has paid dividends. "He's been an impact player for them," said one NFL general manager, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't allowed to critique other teams. "Fit right in. But I still think they needed a receiver more than a linebacker." Indeed, Baltimore's passing offense has been among the worst in the NFL since Week 4.

Christian McCaffrey has been a stalwart for the San Francisco 49ers, who need his dual-threat skill set now more than ever with quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo expected to miss the rest of the season. The running game, short passing and screens will be even more vital with rookie Brock Purdy running the offense. Of course, McCaffrey staying healthy will be the litmus test given his long history.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have had an improved offense and a better team since jettisoning disgruntled wide receiver Chase Claypool, who has brought little to the Chicago Bears. Pittsburgh will be getting one of the top picks in the second round for a player who wasn't in their future. "The Steelers fleeced [the Bears]," the general manager said. "And they got Claypool out of their quarterback's ear." Indeed, rookie Kenny Pickett has gone four games without an interception after tossing eight in his first five appearances.

Burrow for MVP?

Joe Burrow will be a factor in the MVP equation. He outplayed Patrick Mahomes on Sunday, a week after Mahomes broke down in the red zone against a horrible Los Angeles Rams defense. His clutch gene is off the charts, and Ja'Marr Chase's return paid immediate dividends for a team that has won eight of its past 10 games. During that 10-game stretch, Burrow has the best passer rating in the NFL (111.4) while completing a stellar 70.4 percent of his passes. His 22 touchdowns in that span are just one behind Mahomes, and Burrow has thrown just four picks in those 10 games. . . .

The Los Angeles Chargers' defense continues to suffer, the franchise is unable to stack wins, and quarterback Justin Herbert isn't in a scheme that plays to his strengths. All of that portends major change, with Coach Brandon Staley's job security in peril. "They've wasted the three cheapest years of Herbert's career," said one NFL general manager, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because isn't permitted to talk publicly about other franchises. "[Staley] has to go. They can't keep him." . . .

Plenty around the league noticed the Dallas Cowboys putting 33 points on the Colts in the fourth quarter Sunday night. Don't underestimate how disrespectful many in the coaching community found Irsay's handling of the Saturday hire. It was personal for Philadelphia Eagles Coach Nick Sirianni, a former Colts assistant, and it seemed personal for the Cowboys' coaches, too. Saturday leaving Matt Ryan in until the bitter end to absorb more beatings was a bad look. Don't be shocked if others, given the opportunity, run up the score as well.

NFL NOTES

ACL repair sidelines Bills' Miller for season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Buffalo Bills' hopes of having Von Miller back in time for the playoffs were dashed after exploratory surgery revealed the injury to the top pass rusher's right knee was worse than the team and player previously anticipated.

Miller's season is over, the Bills announced Wednesday, a day after he had surgery in Texas to repair what General Manager Brandon Beane described as being "a mostly to fully torn" ACL.

"It was a full ACL repair," Beane said. "And I'm confident he can play in 2023."

Upon seeking multiple medical opinions, Beane said the team and Miller decided upon having arthroscopic surgery in part to determine the full extent of the damage after initial tests revealed a tear in Miller's lateral meniscus.

Miller was hurt in the first half of a 28-25 win over Detroit on Thanksgiving.

• **RAMS:** Coach Sean McVay said Baker Mayfield probably will be active for Thursday night's game against the Las Vegas Raiders, just two days after the Rams claimed the 2018 No. 1 draft pick off waivers from Carolina.

McVay wouldn't rule out the possibility of Mayfield playing against Las Vegas, but the Rams' coach indicated it probably would happen only if John Wolford's persistent neck injury forces struggling Los Angeles (3-9) to try an admittedly desperate solution to its quarterback woes.

• **JAGUARS:** Jacksonville quarterback Trevor Lawrence felt a sense of relief that he was merely missing the first practice of his NFL career.

Lawrence said he "kind of dodged a bullet for sure on that hit," which left him with a painful big toe. The second-year pro initially feared he suffered a potentially season-ending knee injury when he was sacked on the final play of the first half at Detroit on Sunday.

But tests revealed no significant damage and just a sprained toe on his left foot, an injury Lawrence and Coach Doug Pederson expect will allow the quarterback to return to practice later in the week and probably play at Tennessee on Sunday.

• **BROWNS:** Cleveland found a linebacker to plug into the middle of its defense.

The Browns signed Reggie Ragland from Las Vegas's practice squad, a move necessitated after they lost Sione Takitaki for the season with a knee injury.

• **JETS:** New York placed offensive tackle Max Mitchell on the non-football injury list, and the rookie will miss the rest of the season.

Coach Robert Saleh declined to provide details on Mitchell's situation as the Jets began practice preparations for their game Sunday against the AFC East-rival Buffalo Bills.

• **49ERS:** San Francisco is not counting on getting quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo back for a possible playoff run even after getting the favorable news that he won't require surgery on his broken left foot.

"There's that way outside chance late in the playoffs or something like that," Coach Kyle Shanahan said Wednesday. "But it's just an outside chance. I'm not really real optimistic about that. But they didn't rule it out."

Garoppolo broke his foot in the first quarter Sunday against the Miami Dolphins.

• **TEXANS:** Houston will return to Davis Mills at quarterback against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, two weeks after he was benched for Kyle Allen.

Coach Lovie Smith announced the move, saying, "We don't give out lifetime jobs."

• **CHIEFS:** Kansas City could have two important parts of its offense back with guard Joe Thuney and wide receiver Kadarius Toney returning to practice ahead of the Chiefs' trip to Denver.

• **MISC.:** Former Buffalo Bills punter Matt Araiza will not be charged in connection with an alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old girl at an off-campus party last year when he played for San Diego State, prosecutors said.

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office said no charges will be filed against any of Araiza's former Aztecs teammates who were also accused in the reported assault in October 2021.

International players are tuning in to World Cup

COMMANDERS FROM **D1**

soccer is America's sport of the future and always will be — a growing body of evidence suggests the sport is gaining momentum here. Data points include attendance, TV ratings, U.S.-born players abroad and even the popularity of the TV show "Ted Lasso" and the podcast "Men in Blazers." The United States was one of the leading countries in ticket sales for this year's World Cup, according to a FIFA official, and it will jointly host the next one in 2026 with Canada and Mexico. (Concerns about FedEx Field helped torpedo Washington's bid to be one of the 16 host cities. Instead, 11 other NFL stadiums will host the games in the United States.)

The Commanders might seem positioned to be at the forefront of the NFL's embrace of soccer. They play in one of the nation's most avid soccer markets and have an international roster. Team president Jason Wright is a Liverpool fan. And this season, the Commanders have leaned into the local soccer scene. In training camp, the Washington Spirit of the National Women's Soccer League visited practice and had a field goal kicking competition with kicker Joey Slye and punter Tress Way. In October, the team hosted D.C. United, including Coach Wayne Rooney, a former star player in England.

But Bada and Obada were among the few players on the team who recognized Rooney, which Bada considered "mind-blowing."

"I don't know basketball a lot, but I know a couple players, like, at least the big players: LeBron James, Michael Jordan," he said. "But they know nothing about soccer. It's crazy."

During D.C. United's visit, the team gave star wide receiver Terry McLaurin a jersey. He appreciated the gesture but hasn't started following the sport beyond occasionally playing FIFA, the soccer video game. He said he hadn't watched one game of the World Cup and never played soccer growing up.

"Too much running," McLaurin said. "I really don't like running too much when I don't have to."

One of the only U.S.-born players on the Commanders who loves soccer is offensive lineman Saahdiq Charles. As a kid, he enjoyed it because, unlike his youth football league, soccer didn't have a weight limit to touch the ball. Charles played forward and goalie on a travel team until high school. But then his football prospects brightened, and his mother encouraged him to focus on the more lucrative option.



KATHERINE FREY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Defensive end Efe Obada, who was born in Nigeria and raised in England, is one of several active soccer fans on the Commanders' roster.

A reporter asked Charles whether he ever wished he stuck with soccer. Charles gave an incredulous look. The 23-year-old, in the third year of a four-year rookie contract, has a base salary ($895,000) that is more than double the base salary for a senior Major League Soccer player ($438,728).

Though Charles doesn't watch soccer as much as he used to — he once followed the English Premier League, the Spanish La Liga and the Champions League — he still plays FIFA and regularly checks in on his favorite players, including Kylian Mbappé and Cristiano Ronaldo. He has caught a few World Cup games, including a scoreless draw between Mexico and Poland and a 1-1 draw between the United States and Wales.

"USA should've clapped Wales," he noted. "They suck."

The closest thing to a soccer nerve center in the locker room is a bank of stalls in a far corner, where Slye, Obada and Bada have chatted this season. In September, Slye scoffed at Obada's favorite player (Ronaldo) and said he preferred Brazilian legend Ronaldinho. Obada accused Slye of not supporting a player only because everyone else does, and Slye countered that Ronaldo is selfish — and that, with Manchester United, he was "doo-doo."

One day, when Obada was explaining his soccer fandom — Nigeria first, England second — Slye piped up: "Who's your favorite non-I-was-born-and-raised-there team?"

"Whatever football team pays me," Obada quipped.

During the early stages of the tournament, Bada mostly watched the games at home or on his phone in the facility. But for Germany's second game — a 1-1 draw with Spain — he went to a bar with some friends from the German military who are stationed in the United States.

Last Thursday, Bada was sitting at his locker, watching Germany wallop Costa Rica, when he turned over to the game between Japan and Spain. He saw Japan was ahead, which would knock Germany out of the tournament, and yelled, "No way!"

By the next week, Germany and the United States both had been eliminated, and Obada was the only player in the locker room whose team had survived. When asked whether he would get after his teammates as they had done to him, he just grinned.

NHL ROUNDUP

Sabres' Thompson has big night with five goals

SABRES 9, BLUE JACKETS 4

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tage Thompson matched an NHL record by scoring four times in the first period and finished with five goals and an assist as the Buffalo Sabres won their third straight road game, 9-4, over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Wednesday night in Columbus, Ohio.

Thompson is the second U.S.-born player to score five goals in a game. He is the fourth player in NHL history to record four goals in the first period of a regular season game, joining Peter Bondra (1994), Grant Mulvey (1982) and Joe Malone (1921).

He is also the fourth active player to score five goals in a game, joining Timo Meier (Jan. 17, 2022), Mika Zibanejad (March 5, 2020) and Patrik Laine (Nov. 24, 2018).

"It's definitely a rewarding feeling," Thompson said. "You've spent a lot of years working to get to this point and to be rewarded for it is a pretty good feeling and it just leaves you hungrier."

Thompson's outburst helped Buffalo score six times in the first 16:40 of the game.

Alex Tuch had a goal and three assists, Dylan Cozens added a power-play goal and two assists, and Rasmus Dahlin finished with a goal and two assists. Peyton Krebs also scored.

Jeff Skinner picked up four assists, and Jacob Bryson had two. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen stopped 20 shots.

Patrik Laine and Gustav Nyquist each scored twice for Columbus.

Joonas Korpisalo stopped two shots before being pulled in the first in favor of Elvis Merzlikins, who stopped 15 shots through the second period. Korpisalo returned in the third and finished with six saves.

Columbus has lost six straight home games and five of its past six overall.

Buffalo dominated from the puck drop, scoring four goals on its first six shots.

Cozens put the Sabres on the board at 3:21 of the first, 53 seconds into a Blue Jackets penalty, and Thompson made it 2-0 just 2:09 later. Dahlin scored Buffalo's third goal at 7:28 of the first, driving Korpisalo from the net in favor of Merzlikins, who gave up Buffalo goal No. 4 to Thompson 32 seconds later.

Thompson's third career hat trick and second of the season came on a power-play goal at 12:22 of the first. He followed with his fourth goal, also on the power play, at 16:40.

• **BRUINS 4, AVALANCHE 0**: Taylor Hall scored twice and had an assist, Linus Ullmark stopped 23 shots for his second shutout of the season, and Boston cruised past Colorado in Denver.

David Pastrnak and Trent Frederic added goals for the Bruins, who beat Colorado, 5-1, last weekend in Boston.

Boston improved to 10-0-1 against Western Conference teams this season.

The Bruins found a big spark soon after Pastrnak was knocked to the ice on a hard hit from Dryden Hunt early in the second period. Tomas Nosek came to the defense of Pastrnak and got into a fight with Hunt. Both were sent to the penalty box.

Pastrnak exacted a measure of revenge just over two minutes later by scoring his 18th goal of the season. It was set up by a David Krejci pass from behind the net.

Hall soon made it 2-0 thanks to Charlie Coyle, who stole the puck and fed it to Hall.

Alexandar Georgiev stopped 33 shots for an Avalanche team that has lost three straight.

• **FLAMES 5, WILD 3**: Rasmus Andersson scored a tie-breaker at 15:57 of the third period and had two assists as Calgary rallied to beat visiting Minnesota.

Tyler Toffoli scored twice, including an empty-netter, and Nazem Kadri and Blake Coleman added goals for Calgary. Elias Lindholm had three assists for the Flames, who won their third straight.



MATT SLOCUM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alex Ovechkin scored the 50th and 51st empty-net goals of his career Wednesday night. Only Wayne Gretzky (56) has more in NHL history.

Caps cap trip with win in Philadelphia

CAPITALS FROM D1

After yielding a power-play goal to Hayes late in the first period, the Capitals drew even early in the second on their fourth power-play opportunity when T.J. Oshie beat Hart top shelf with a one-timer off an assist from Strome. The Capitals were on the man advantage after Philadelphia's James van Riemsdyk was sent off for tripping. It was the fifth goal of the season for Oshie and his fourth on the power play.

The Flyers dominated the rest of the period, with the Capitals' tired legs showing the effects of the long trip. Washington didn't buckle beneath the fatigue, though, keeping the score deadlocked despite Philadelphia continuing to apply heavy pressure.

A penalty-filled first period featured the Flyers striking first courtesy of Hayes's wrist shot from steps inside the blue line with 4:14 to play. Hayes's ninth goal of the season came in the closing stages of Philadelphia's second power play with a replacement stick after he broke his original moments earlier.

Two power plays for Washington plus the start of a third that carried into the second period proved fruitless, although Ovechkin had a point-blank look from his knees that got behind Hart and caromed off the bottom off the crossbar.

The Capitals faced their first bit of adversity early in the first period when Oshie was called for hooking at 4:19.

Washington's penalty kill continued its recent upward trend by limiting the Flyers to two marginal chances, with Lindgren comfortably controlling the second bid.

Washington entered the game ranked eighth in the league in penalty killing (80.8 percent).

A little less than seven minutes later, the Capitals went on their first power play after Nick Seeler went to the box for hooking. Ovechkin attempted two shots with the man advantage — only the first of which got through to Hart, who made the save without issue.

Here's what else to know about the Capitals' win:

Rest at hand

The injury-depleted Capitals get a full day off Thursday to recover from a trip that took them through three time zones.

Before returning stateside in the wee hours Tuesday, Washington had logged games in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton, where the Capitals won, 3-2, on Monday.

Notable injuries during the trip that left Washington further depleted were to defenseman Martin Fehervary (upper body) and Kuemper (upper body). Both were hurt during Saturday's 5-2 loss to the Flames.

The Capitals have been without defenseman Dmitry Orlov since early November because of a lower body injury. Center Nicklas Backstrom (hip) and winger Tom Wilson (knee) have not played this season. Backstrom has been skating recently and is expected to do so again Friday morning in advance of that night's game against the Seattle Kraken at Capital One Arena.

"We're happy how we ended," Ovechkin said. "Now we go home, refresh our minds, stay with our families and, you know, move on."

CAPITALS' NEXT THREE

vs. Seattle Kraken

Tomorrow	7	NBCSW Plus

at Winnipeg Jets

Sunday	7	NBCSW

at Chicago Blackhawks

Tuesday	9	ESPN

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WTEM (980 AM), WFED (1500 AM)

Capitals 4, Flyers 1

WASHINGTON	0	1	3	— 4
PHILADELPHIA	1	0	0	— 1

FIRST PERIOD

Scoring: 1, Philadelphia, Hayes 9 (Konecny, DeAngelo), 15:46 (pp).

SECOND PERIOD

Scoring: 2, Washington, Oshie 5 (Strome, Kuznetsov), 3:51 (pp).

THIRD PERIOD

Scoring: 3, Washington, Strome 6 (Carlson, Gustafsson), 9:19. 4, Washington, Ovechkin 14 (Mantha, Carlson), 18:25 (en). 5, Washington, Ovechkin 15 (Kuznetsov, Sheary), 19:51 (en).

SHOTS ON GOAL

WASHINGTON	4	12	11	— 27
PHILADELPHIA	7	8	15	— 30

Power-play opportunities: Washington 1 of 4; Philadelphia 1 of 3. **Goalies:** Washington, Lindgren 4-3-2 (30 shots-29 saves). Philadelphia, Hart 8-8-4 (25-23). **A:** 16,826 (19,543). **T:** 2:27.

Wizards come up just short in Chicago

WIZARDS FROM D1

second half. And we still had an opportunity. . . . Just couldn't get enough stops late."

The Wizards (11-14) looked as if they might snap their skid after Kyle Kuzma's three-pointer gave them a 90-84 lead, their biggest of the evening. Then DeRozan and LaVine got hot.

DeRozan scored on consecutive trips to trim the margin to one. Monte Morris and Deni Avdija did their best to hold them at bay, with both teams finding another offensive gear for about a three-minute stretch.

The Wizards came out of it leading 105-104, but the Bulls still had one more answer in the form of a 7-0 run, capped by a three-point play from DeRozan that put Chicago up six.

Kristaps Porzingis had a game-high 28 points and nine rebounds, and Kuzma added 21 points and five rebounds. Morris posted 17 points and eight assists, Corey Kispert chipped in 10, and Daniel Gafford scored 10 off the bench.

"They executed a bit better," Porzingis said. "They kind of ran their stuff, got some open, decent looks, and we didn't. We weren't as sharp, maybe, as they were. That's experience. That's communication. That's a little bit of details. They were just a bit better down the stretch."

Vucevic scored 25 and snatched 11 boards for the Bulls.

The Wizards struggled from behind the arc (9 for 31) but were successful attacking the interior, scoring 60 points in the paint.

Here is what else to know about the Wizards' loss:

Playing without Beal

Beal was diagnosed with a right hamstring strain Monday and is expected to miss at least a week. Beal previously missed five games in early November after entering the health and safety protocols.

The team went 4-1 during that stretch and entered the Bulls game 4-2 without Beal this season.

"It's still a little uneasy," Unseld said. "It is what it is. So [we] just have to do the best we can with what we have. Not having him at times in the past gives a comfort level with certain guys, and they understand they have to step up.

"They know we've been able to have some success without him. So there is a comfort level there, but it's certainly not ideal."

Kispert started in Beal's place, his 10th start of the season.

Scary moment

A worst-case scenario seemed to materialize in the first quarter when Porzingis checked out at the 4:59 mark and immediately headed to the locker room with an apparent injury.

He missed the rest of the quarter before emerging from the tunnel during the break in between the first and second quarters. The Wizards were already extremely shorthanded without Beal, Rui Hachimura and Delon Wright, so there was a sigh of relief when Porzingis checked back in at the 9:52 mark of the second quarter.

Enter, exit the foul machine

Bulls center Andre Drummond checked out of the game early in the second quarter after picking up his fourth foul. That many fouls that early in the game is unusual — especially considering Drummond spent just five minutes on the floor.



MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY IMAGES

The Bulls' Alex Caruso sidesteps Wizards big man Kristaps Porzingis, who scored 28 points Wednesday.

WIZARDS' NEXT THREE

at Indiana Pacers

Tomorrow	7	NBCSW

vs. Los Angeles Clippers

Saturday	7	NBCSW

vs. Brooklyn Nets

Monday	7	NBCSW

Radio: WTEM (980 AM)

Bulls 115, Wizards 111

Washington	22	27	32	30	— 111
Chicago	29	23	28	35	— 115

WASHINGTON	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Avdija	38:51	4-8	2-3	1-5	6	2	10
Kuzma	37:55	8-18	3-4	0-5	1	1	21
Porzingis	34:36	8-17	12-16	1-9	4	4	28
Kispert	30:04	4-8	0-0	1-3	1	2	10
Morris	37:14	7-13	1-1	0-2	8	3	17
Barton	18:09	2-7	0-0	0-3	1	0	6
Gafford	17:31	4-4	2-3	1-3	0	3	10
Goodwin	12:36	2-6	0-0	1-4	1	0	4
Gibson	10:09	2-3	0-2	1-3	0	1	5
Gill	2:53	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
TOTALS	240	41-84	20-29	6-38	22	16	111

Percentages: FG .488, FT .690. **3-Point Goals:** 9-31, .290 (Barton 2-5, Kispert 2-5, Kuzma 2-5, Morris 2-6, Gibson 1-2, Avdija 0-1, Goodwin 0-1, Porzingis 0-6). **Team Rebounds:** 13. **Team Turnovers:** None. **Blocked Shots:** 6 (Gafford 2, Porzingis 2, Barton, Morris). **Turnovers:** 18 (Porzingis 5, Kuzma 3, Morris 3, Gafford 2, Kispert 2, Barton, Gibson, Goodwin). **Steals:** 12 (Avdija 4, Kispert 2, Kuzma 2, Porzingis 2, Gafford, Goodwin). **Technical Fouls:** None.

CHICAGO	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
DeRozan	37:15	11-21	5-6	0-7	4	3	27
Williams	29:59	5-8	0-0	1-3	1	4	11
Vucevic	35:38	10-16	2-3	2-11	3	1	25
Caruso	32:09	2-4	1-1	0-4	9	3	5
LaVine	34:15	8-19	4-4	0-7	5	1	25
Dosunmu	19:52	3-5	2-2	0-2	2	3	8
White	17:08	2-4	1-1	0-1	0	0	6
Jones Jr.	14:10	1-4	0-0	1-2	1	0	2
Dragic	11:03	1-4	0-0	1-1	3	0	2
Drummond	8:28	2-5	0-0	1-3	1	5	4
TOTALS	240	45-90	15-17	6-41	29	20	115

Percentages: FG .500, FT .882. **3-Point Goals:** 10-23, .435 (LaVine 5-9, Vucevic 3-5, Williams 1-1, White 1-3, Caruso 0-1, DeRozan 0-1, Dosunmu 0-1, Dragic 0-1, Jones Jr. 0-1). **Team Rebounds:** 7. **Team Turnovers:** None. **Blocked Shots:** 4 (Vucevic 2, DeRozan, Drummond). **Turnovers:** 19 (LaVine 6, DeRozan 5, Dragic 2, Caruso, Dosunmu, Drummond, Vucevic, White, Williams). **Steals:** 11 (Caruso 4, LaVine 2, Vucevic 2, Dosunmu, Jones Jr., White). **Technical Fouls:** Bulls, 1:14 first. **A:** 19,265 (20,917).

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NBA ROUNDUP

Banchero helps Orlando end its nine-game skid

MAGIC 116, CLIPPERS 111 (OT)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rookie Pablo Banchero scored 10 of his 23 points in overtime, and the host Orlando Magic snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 116-111 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night.

Banchero, the top overall pick in June's draft, made all six of his free throws in the final seven seconds of overtime.

Terrance Mann came off the bench to lead the Clippers with 19 points. Bol Bol and Mo Wagner each scored 20 points for the Magic, which trailed by 18 points in the first quarter.

Kawhi Leonard, Markelle Fultz and Paul George missed jumpers in the final seconds of the fourth quarter, and the teams were tied at 99 at the end of regulation.

• **NETS 122, HORNETS 116**: Kyrie Irving scored 33 points, Kevin Durant had 29, and Brooklyn outlasted Charlotte in New York.

Seth Curry added 20 points on 8-for-11 shooting to help the Nets win for the fifth time in six games.

Terry Rozier scored 30 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 29 for the Hornets. They have lost three straight and seven of 10.

• **RAPTORS 126, LAKERS 113**: Pascal Siakam had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and host Toronto routed Los Angeles, beating a shorthanded Lakers team playing without LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

James sat out because of a sore left ankle, one night after he played 36 minutes in a loss at Cleveland. Davis left after one quarter Tuesday night because of a non-covid-19 illness.

Guard Patrick Beverley (right knee) and forward Wenyen Gabriel (left shoulder) also were out for the Lakers, who came in having won six of eight.

Dennis Schröder led the Lakers with 18 points.

• **BUCKS 126, KINGS 113**: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 35 points, Jrue Holiday added 31, and host Milwaukee beat Sacramento for the 13th consecutive time.

Domantas Sabonis had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings, who had won three in a row.

• **JAZZ 124, WARRIORS 123**: In Salt Lake City, Simone Fontecchio dunked with 1.4 seconds remaining off Nickeil Alexander-Walker's steal, and Utah beat Golden State.

Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Andrew Wiggins sat out for Golden State, while Utah was missing Lauri Markkanen and Mike Conley.

Fontecchio, a rookie from Italy, scored a career-high 18 points.

Jordan Poole tied a season high with 36 points for Golden State.

• **KNICKS 113, HAWKS 89**: Julius Randle had 34 points and 17 rebounds, and host New York capitalized on another key Atlanta injury to coast.

The Hawks lost a third starter when Dejounte Murray sprained his left ankle after 3½ minutes.

Already without starting forwards John Collins and De'Andre Hunter, the Hawks trailed by as many as 28 points in their fifth loss in seven games. Trae Young finished with 19 points and six assists for Atlanta.

• **TIMBERWOLVES 121, PACERS 115**: In Minneapolis, D'Angelo Russell had 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, Anthony Edwards scored 26 points, and Minnesota beat Indiana.

Minnesota blew a 23-point lead and had to overcome an eight-point deficit.

Buddy Hield scored 26 points and hit 7 of 11 from three-point territory for Indiana, which has lost four of five.

• **PELICANS 104, PISTONS 98**: Zion Williamson had 29 points, 10 rebounds and five assists to power host New Orleans past Detroit.

Saddiq Bey scored 25 points in a reserve role to pace Detroit.

• **GRIZZLIES 123, THUNDER 102**: Ja Morant had 26 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists, and host Memphis used a second-half flurry to beat Oklahoma City.

The Grizzlies won their season-best fourth straight.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 26 points.

WORLD CUP NOTES

Despite its early exit, Germany will keep Flick as coach

Associated Press

Germany's coach is staying, but the head of its league is not.

The German soccer federation maintained its trust in Hansi Flick as national team coach Wednesday despite the disappointing World Cup performance.

Separately, German soccer league chief executive Donata Hopfen will leave her position at the end of the month after reaching a mutual agreement to cut short her three-year contract because of what the league said was "differing ideas about the further strategic direction of the company."

Hopfen's departure — unrelated to the World Cup — after less than a year in charge had been expected amid simmering issues of discontent among Bundesliga clubs and teams from the second division.

Flick's future was more uncertain following Germany's early World Cup exit, its third straight disappointing performance at a major tournament, and the former Bayern Munich coach was under pressure going into Wednesday's meeting with federation president Bernd Neuendorf and vice president Hans-Joachim Watzke.

Neuendorf said afterward the body has "full confidence" in Flick to lead the team through the 2024 European Championship, which Germany is scheduled to host and which Neuendorf described as a "great opportunity" for the future of soccer in the country.

Flick left the meeting without a word but was quoted in a statement from the federation.

"We as a team can achieve much more than we showed in Qatar," Flick said in the statement. "We missed a big opportunity there. We'll learn our lessons from it."

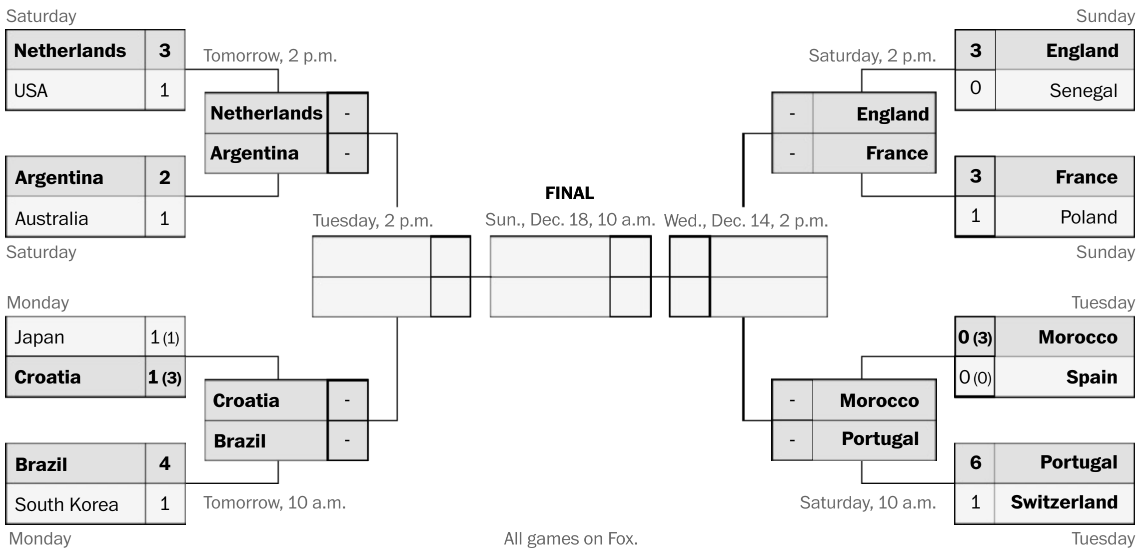
Flick said he was optimistic about Euro 2024 and that he has confidence in the path Neuendorf and Watzke agreed to.

"We want all of Germany to rally behind the national team again at the 2024 European Championship at home," said Flick, who faced criticism for his team selection and tactics against group rivals Japan, Spain and Costa Rica in Qatar.



INA FASSBENDER/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Hansi Flick's future was uncertain after Germany's second straight World Cup exit in the group stage.



Mistakes on defense, where Flick was unable to settle on his preferred back four, and an inability to put away chances cost Germany a place in the knockout round.

Germany's record under Flick was also poor before the tournament. Flick took over from Joachim Löw last year after Germany's second-round exit from the European Championship and has a contract through Euro 2024.

The federation still needs a replacement for Oliver Bierhoff, who ended an 18-year stint Monday when he agreed to resign as managing director of Germany's national soccer teams and academy. Bierhoff might not have a direct replacement.

Bierhoff is the only casualty so far from Germany's group-stage exit from the World Cup in Qatar, the team's second straight embarrassing failure in soccer's biggest tournament. Germany also was eliminated from the same stage at the 2018 World Cup as defending champion.

• **FRANCE:** Yes, Kylian Mbappé will be ready to face England at the World Cup on Saturday. No, the France forward was not injured when he missed a recent training session.

France teammate Ibrahima Konaté delivered a reassuring message about Mbappé, news that perhaps England fans did not want to hear three days before the teams meet in the quarterfinals.

"There's nothing worrying. Nothing to make a controversy about," Konaté said, explaining Mbappé had a recovery session away from the training field Tuesday — normal routine two days after the round-of-16 game.

Mbappé's two goals in that 3-1 win over Poland gave him a tournament-leading five at this year's World Cup. He is expected to be closely marked Saturday by England's fastest defender, Kyle Walker.

"Walker is one of the best right backs in the world. I'm looking forward to seeing this great battle," Konaté said of the Manchester City defender, whom he knows well from playing for Premier League rival Liverpool.

• **CAMEROON:** Soccer federation president and former star player Samuel Eto'o apologized for kicking a man to the ground in what he called a "violent altercation" outside a World Cup stadium early Tuesday.

Eto'o had paused to pose for photos with fans near Stadium 974 after Brazil beat South Korea. A video originally posted on social media by newspaper La Opinion showed him then reacting to comments by a man holding a camera.

The former Barcelona and Inter Milan forward was initially held back by people in his entourage, but he then got clear and appeared to aim a kick at the man, who fell backward to the ground.

"I would like to apologize for losing my temper and reacting in a way that does not match my personality," Eto'o said.

The man, Algerian social media personality Said Mamouni, later published a video on YouTube saying he was the person who was attacked and that he was at a Qatari police station to file a complaint against Eto'o.

• **BELGIUM:** Forward Eden Hazard retired from international soccer, nearly a week after his country's aging generation of players was eliminated.

The 31-year-old winger made his debut with the national team in 2008 at 17. He made 126 appearances and scored 33 goals.

"A page turns today . . ." the Real Madrid player wrote on his Instagram page. "Thank you for all the happiness shared since 2008. I have decided to put an end to my international career. The succession is ready. I will miss you."

Belgium was eliminated from the tournament after a 0-0 draw with Croatia, which advanced as the second-place team in Group F behind Morocco. Hazard failed to score in the group stage.

Minutes after the game, Belgium Coach Roberto Martinez announced he would be leaving his role after more than six years — a decision he said he had reached before the tournament started.

Martinez's exit coincides with the probable breakup of Belgium's "Golden Generation," an era featuring standout attacking players Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku.

• **MISC.:** The Croatian and Serbian federations were fined by FIFA for making Balkan political statements at the World Cup.

FIFA fined the Croatians 50,000 Swiss francs (about $53,000) after the team's fans verbally abused and taunted Canada goalkeeper Milan Borjan, who has Serbian family ties.

The Serbian soccer federation was fined 20,000 Swiss francs (about $21,300) for a political banner about neighboring Kosovo displayed in the locker room before playing Brazil in the team's opening game.

It showed a map of Serbia that included the territory of its former province, which has been an independent state for nearly 15 years, and the slogan "No Surrender."

The Kosovo soccer federation formally complained to FIFA about the banner, which was hung over two Serbia players' lockers Nov. 24.

AL MVP Judge will stay with Yankees

MLB FROM D1

congratulated its founder on returning to New York, Cashman had to wait out the paperwork, the medicals and the contract language.

"We haven't officially landed any planes. We have some maybe lined up to be brought down, but there's a lot more planes out there circling and hopefully air traffic control . . ." Cashman said before abandoning the metaphor. "I'm not Scott Boras."

The deal, for all intents and purposes, is done: The Yankees are bringing back their most prominent and popular homegrown star since Derek Jeter, and they are giving him the highest annual salary of any position player in history.

Judge turned the Yankees down on a seven-year, $213.5 million extension in April, betting on his own ability that he would cash in this offseason. After winning the MVP and smashing an AL-record 62 home runs, he accepted a deal that will pay him almost $10 million more annually. Somehow, whether Judge wanted to stay all along and bluffed the Yankees into a bigger offer or whether the star was really considering other pitches, Cashman was unfazed by Wednesday morning. He was just happy to hang on to the latest in a long line of franchise legends.

"Clearly, I've never had to negotiate or try to retain somebody that just broke Roger Maris's American League home run record," Cashman said.

The Yankees' contingent did most of that negotiating on the phone, though Judge arrived in San Diego late Tuesday evening.

Cashman said he didn't know for sure Judge would be in town, let alone where to find him. As it happened, Judge was meeting with the San Diego Padres, who were making a last-minute push after missing out on shortstop Trea Turner a day earlier.

Judge, a northern California native, was also a target for his hometown team, the San Francisco Giants, who were also open about their pursuit. But the number of teams making a credible push for Judge was small. For the Giants, Judge would have been a dramatic acquisition. For the Padres, he would have qualified as a welcome surprise.

But for the Yankees, Judge was indispensable, the necessary first step in an offseason that can now, in some ways, really begin. Judge was the biggest name of a position player market that included stars who could headline any other offseason — including Carlos Correa, Xander Bogaerts and Brandon Nimmo, all of whom represent credible backup plans for anyone who wanted Judge and missed.



FRED THORNHILL/CANADIAN PRESS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aaron Judge broke Roger Maris's American League home run record last season and finished with 62 for the AL East champions.

With Judge off the board, the ice began to break on the final day of the meetings. The St. Louis Cardinals agreed to a five-year deal with catcher Willson Contreras (worth a reported $87.5 million) to become the successor to franchise pillar Yadier Molina. The Boston Red Sox reportedly were near a deal to keep Bogaerts, their longtime shortstop who opted out of his deal this offseason to become a free agent. The Giants, Minnesota Twins and Detroit Tigers seemed like reasonable landing spots for Correa.

The Red Sox didn't cede all of the headlines to their longtime AL East rivals. Shortly after word spread about Judge, Boston reportedly reached a two-year deal with closer Kenley Jansen for $32 million. On Wednesday night, the Red Sox agreed to a five-year deal with Japanese outfielder Masataka Yoshida, according to a person familiar with the situation. The agreement will pay the 29-year-old $90 million over five years and will cost the Red Sox $15.4 million in a posting fee.

The Yankees, meanwhile, seemed likely to need more pieces around Judge — a starter or two, some bullpen help and outfield depth — some of which could be easier for them to find via trade. But they will not pursue those pieces from a place of desperation.

"It's an awkward time, especially being here at the winter meetings where things speed up and you probably think a decision's coming soon. It definitely made for an uncomfortable day," said Yankees Manager Aaron Boone, who said he called Judge on Tuesday night, went to bed and woke up to a friend's text about the reports before calling Cashman to figure out what was happening.

"Well, there's nothing for us to say," Cashman interrupted as they both chuckled.

"I did call [Cashman] to get some hypothetical . . ." Boone explained. He didn't finish the thought, finally giving up on the ruse and allowing a smile to say the rest.

Meanwhile, the New York Mets and left-hander José Quintana agreed to a two-year, $26 million contract, adding another veteran to the rotation.

The Chicago Cubs added Jameson Taillon to their rotation, agreeing to a four-year contract with the right-hander worth roughly $68 million.

Nationals take pitcher in Rule 5 draft

Washington sees Ward as a potential starter or a long reliever

by Jesse Dougherty

SAN DIEGO — The Washington Nationals added to their young talent pool Wednesday, selecting right-handed pitcher Thad Ward with the first pick of the Rule 5 draft. Ward, 25, had a breakout season with Boston's low and high Class A affiliates in 2019, then had his career stalled by the pandemic and Tommy John surgery. But the Nationals believe he can contribute as a multi-inning reliever next season and potentially start down the road.

Because Ward arrives via the Rule 5 draft, the Nationals will have to carry him on their active roster for all of 2023 or risk losing him to another club. Should he make it through the whole season, the Nationals would have an optionable pitcher with five more years of team control.

After Ward was officially placed on their 40-man roster Wednesday, outfielder Josh Palacios was taken by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the minor league portion, ending his short stint in D.C. Washington declined to pick a second player despite having the 40-man roster space.

"We blended the upside of the pitcher with the certainty of making it easier to carry the player throughout the season," General Manager Mike Rizzo explained at the winter meetings, where the Rule 5 draft returned after last winter's lockout led to its cancellation. "We liked this player. . . . He's around the plate. He's got some pitchability and some stuff. We think that there's a bit more in the tank when he gets further away from the surgery."

Surgery sidelined Ward for most of the past two seasons. After he returned in July, he threw 51⅓ innings across 13 starts, striking out 11 batters per nine innings with the Class AA Portland Sea Dogs. In his longest appearance, he recorded 16 outs on 89 pitches in September. The Red Sox selected Ward in the fifth round out of the University of Central Florida in 2018. In November, they exposed him to the Rule 5 draft instead of adding him to their 40-man roster.



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Nationals General Manager Mike Rizzo again is taking a chance on a young pitcher who recently recovered from Tommy John surgery.

Ward then became the Nationals' first major league Rule 5 selection since 2010. When they grew into a contender, then sustained a run of success for close to a decade, they had crowded 40-man rosters and couldn't afford to offer spots to such unproven players. But the top pick — a position they earned by losing 107 games in 2022 — brought the chance to land a pitcher with an expansive mix, including a four-seam fastball, a plus slider, a sinker, a cutter and a developing change-up. Ward's slider is what most intrigued the Nationals.

"I kind of pride myself in being able to do just a little bit of everything," Ward said Wednesday. "To keep hitters uncomfortable and to really make sure that it gives my defense the best opportunity to make the plays that they're very, very capable of making."

Twelve years ago, Washington took Elvin Ramirez, who never pitched for the Nationals, and Brian Broderick, who was ineffective in his only 11 career appearances in 2011. That past alone shows the hit-but-more-likely-miss nature of this process. So while there may be a bit less variance with Ward, whom Baseball America had as one of the best available players, there is variance nonetheless.

The immediate plan, as explained by Rizzo, is to stretch Ward out in spring training. That could serve two purposes: allowing the Nationals to see him as a starter and to prep him to pitch multiple innings out of the bullpen early in the season. Rizzo noted Wednesday that Ward's fastball velocity seems to be ticking back to its pre-surgery levels. Ward pitched five or more innings in five of his 13 outings last summer.

The Nationals paid $100,000 to add Ward on Wednesday. If he struggles come spring, they could return him to the Red Sox with little to nothing lost. The expectation, though, is that Ward will break camp and get an extended chance. Ward knows he has to refine his change-up, a relatively new pitch for him, to grow into a major league starter. But with MacKenzie Gore, Cade Cavalli and Josiah Gray in the rotation mix — plus Patrick Corbin under contract for two more seasons — the Nationals won't be in a rush to make that happen.

"I still have to go out and I have to make that team. That's the approach I'm taking to it," Ward said. "I'm not really looking at it and being like, 'Oh, I'm in the big leagues now.' I'm still taking the approach of I still need to go and earn my spot."

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

World Cup

SECOND ROUND
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
IN RAYYAN
Netherlands 3, United States 1
Argentina 2, Australia 1

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
IN DOHA
France 3, Poland 1
IN KHOR
England 3, Senegal 0

MONDAY'S RESULTS
IN WAKRAH
Croatia 1, Japan 1 (Croatia 3-1 on penalty kicks)
IN DOHA
Brazil 4, South Korea 1

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
IN RAYYAN
Morocco 0, Spain 0 (Morocco 3-0 on penalty kicks)
IN LUSAIL
Portugal 6, Switzerland 1

QUARTERFINALS
FRIDAY'S MATCHES
IN RAYYAN
Croatia vs. Brazil, 10 a.m.
IN LUSAIL
Netherlands vs. Argentina, 2 p.m.
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
IN DOHA
Morocco vs. Portugal, 10 a.m.
IN KHOR
England vs. France, 2 p.m.

SEMIFINALS
TUESDAY'S MATCH
IN LUSAIL
Netherlands-Argentina winner vs. Croatia-Brazil winner, 2 p.m.
WEDNESDAY'S MATCH
IN KHOR
England-France winner vs. Morocco-Portugal winner, 2 p.m.

THIRD PLACE
SATURDAY, DEC. 17
IN RAYYAN
Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY, DEC. 18
IN LUSAIL
Semifinal winners, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA

SATURDAY'S GAME
EAST
Army (5-6) vs. Navy (4-7) in Philadelphia, 3

FCS PLAYOFFS — QUARTERFINALS
FRIDAY'S GAMES
MIDWEST
Samford (11-1) at North Dakota State (10-2), 7
WEST
William & Mary (11-1) at Montana State (11-1), 10:15
Incarnate Word (11-1) at Sacramento State (12-0), 10:30

SATURDAY'S GAME
MIDWEST
Holy Cross (12-0) at South Dakota State (11-1), noon

NCAA

BOWL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DEC. 16
BAHAMAS BOWL — IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS
Miami (Ohio) vs. UAB, 11:30 a.m.
CURE BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 25 Texas San Antonio vs. No. 24 Troy, 3

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
FENWAY BOWL — IN BOSTON
Louisville vs. Cincinnati, 11 a.m.
CELEBRATION BOWL — IN ATLANTA
Jackson State vs. North Carolina Central, 11 a.m.
NEW MEXICO BOWL — IN ALBUQUERQUE
BYU vs. SMU, 2:15
L.A. BOWL — IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Fresno State vs. Washington State, 3:30
LENDINGTREE BOWL — IN MOBILE, ALA.
Rice vs. Southern Mississippi, 5:45
LAS VEGAS BOWL —IN LAS VEGAS
No. 14 Oregon State vs. Florida, 7:30
FRISCO BOWL —IN FRISCO, TEX.
North Texas vs. Boise State, 9:15

MONDAY, DEC. 19
MYRTLE BEACH BOWL — IN CONWAY, S.C.
Marshall vs. Connecticut, 2:30

TUESDAY, DEC. 20
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL — IN BOISE
San Jose State vs. Eastern Michigan, 3:30
BOCA RATON BOWL — IN BOCA RATON, FLA.
Liberty vs. Toledo, 7:30

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
NEW ORLEANS BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
South Alabama vs. W. Kentucky, 9

THURSDAY, DEC. 22
ARMED FORCES BOWL — IN FORT WORTH
Baylor vs. Air Force, 7:30

FRIDAY, DEC. 23
GASPARILLA BOWL — IN TAMPA
Missouri vs. Wake Forest, 6:30
INDEPENDENCE BOWL — IN SHREVEPORT, LA.
Houston vs. Louisiana Lafayette, 3

SATURDAY, DEC. 24
HAWAII BOWL — IN HONOLULU
Middle Tennessee vs. San Diego State, 8

MONDAY, DEC. 26
QUICK LANE BOWL — IN DETROIT
New Mexico State vs. Bowling Green, 2:30

TUESDAY, DEC. 27
FIRST RESPONDER BOWL — IN DALLAS
Memphis vs. Utah State, 3:15
BIRMINGHAM BOWL — IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
Coastal Carolina vs. East Carolina, 6:45
CAMELLIA BOWL — IN MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Georgia Southern vs. Buffalo, noon
GUARANTEED RATE BOWL — IN PHOENIX
Wisconsin vs. Oklahoma State, 10:15

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
MILITARY BOWL — IN ANNAPOLIS
UCF vs. Duke, 2
LIBERTY BOWL — IN MEMPHIS
Arkansas vs. Kansas, 5:30
HOLIDAY BOWL — IN SAN DIEGO
No. 15 Oregon vs. North Carolina, 8
TEXAS BOWL — IN HOUSTON
Texas Tech vs. Mississippi, 9

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
PINSTRIPE BOWL — IN NEW YORK
Syracuse vs. Minnesota, 2
CHEEZ-IT BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 13 Florida State vs. Oklahoma, 5:30
ALAMO BOWL — IN SAN ANTONIO
No. 12 Washington vs. No. 20 Texas, 9

FRIDAY, DEC. 30
ORANGE BOWL — IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.
No. 6 Tennessee vs. No. 7 Clemson, 8
DUKE'S MAYO BOWL — IN CHARLOTTE
No. 23 North Carolina State vs. Maryland, noon
SUN BOWL — IN EL PASO
No. 18 UCLA vs. Pittsburgh, 2
GATOR BOWL — IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
No. 21 Notre Dame vs. No. 19 South Carolina, 3:30
ARIZONA BOWL — IN TUSCON
Wyoming vs. Ohio, 4:30

SATURDAY, DEC. 31
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
PEACH BOWL — IN ATLANTA
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 4 Ohio State, 8
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
FIESTA BOWL — IN GLENDALE, ARIZ.
No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 TCU, 4
MUSIC CITY BOWL — IN NASHVILLE
Kentucky vs. Iowa, noon
SUGAR BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
No. 5 Alabama vs. No. 9 Kansas State, noon

MONDAY, JAN. 2
RELIAQUEST BOWL — IN TAMPA
No. 22 Mississippi State vs. Illinois, noon
CITRUS BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 17 LSU vs. Purdue, 1
COTTON BOWL CLASSIC — IN ARLINGTON, TEX.
No. 10 Southern California vs. No. 16 Tulane, 1
ROSE BOWL — IN PASADENA, CALIF.
No. 8 Utah vs. No. 11 Penn State, 5

MONDAY, JAN. 9
COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Semifinal winners, 7:30

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

NFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	11	1	0	.917	338	226
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	333	206
N.Y. Giants	7	4	1	.625	245	252
Washington	7	5	1	.577	253	256

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	217	219
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	288	312
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	230	266
New Orleans	4	9	0	.308	265	297

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	2	0	.833	289	279
Detroit	5	7	0	.417	315	324
Green Bay	5	8	0	.385	263	302
eChicago	3	10	0	.231	270	333

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	4	0	.667	282	190
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	318	304
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	264	321
L.A. Rams	3	9	0	.250	201	280

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	333	209
Miami	8	4	0	.667	299	289
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	252	223
New England	6	6	0	.500	249	226

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	219	240
Indianapolis	4	8	1	.346	209	298
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	258	272
e-Houston	1	10	1	.125	188	287

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	285	236
Cincinnati	8	4	0	.667	312	255
Cleveland	5	7	0	.417	290	300
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417	213	277

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	3	0	.750	350	270
L.A. Chargers	6	6	0	.500	272	309
Las Vegas	5	7	0	.417	292	296
Denver	3	9	0	.250	166	204

e-Eliminated from playoffs

WEEK 14
THURSDAY'S GAME
Las Vegas (-6½) at L.A. Rams, 8:15
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Baltimore at Pittsburgh (-2½), 1
Cleveland at Cincinnati (-6½), 1
Houston at Dallas (-16½), 1
Jacksonville at Tennessee (-4½), 1
Minnesota at Detroit (-2½), 1
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo (-9½), 1
Philadelphia (-6½) at N.Y. Giants, 1
Kansas City (-9½) at Denver, 4:05
Carolina at Seattle (-3½), 4:25
Tampa Bay at San Francisco (-3½), 4:25
Miami (-3) at L.A. Chargers, 8:20
BYE: Indianapolis, Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay, New Orleans, Washington
MONDAY'S GAME
New England (-1½) at Arizona, 8:15

WEEK 15
THURSDAY, DEC. 15
San Francisco at Seattle, 8:15
SATURDAY, DEC. 17
Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:30
Indianapolis at Minnesota, 1
Miami at Buffalo, 8:15
SUNDAY, DEC. 18
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:20
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1
Dallas at Jacksonville, 1
Detroit at N.Y. Jets, 1
Kansas City at Houston, 1
Philadelphia at Chicago, 1
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 1
Arizona at Denver, 4:05
New England at Las Vegas, 4:05
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, 4:25
Tennessee at L.A. Chargers, 4:25
MONDAY, DEC. 19
L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 8:15

BASEBALL

MLB Rule 5 draft

Selections from the Rule 5 draft for 2022 listed by team, name, position and team selected from:

MAJOR LEAGUE PHASE
ROUND 1
1. Nationals: Thad Ward, RHP (Red Sox)
2. Athletics: Bryan Noda, 1B (Dodgers)
3. Pirates: Jose Hernandez, LHP (Dodgers)
4. Reds: Blake Sabel, OF (Pirates)
5. Tigers: Mason Englert, RHP (Rangers)
6. Rockies: Kevin Kelly, RHP (Guardians)
7. Marlins: Nic Enright, RHP (Guardians)
8. White Sox: Nick Avila, RHP (Giants)
9. Orioles: Andrew Politi, RHP (Red Sox)
10. Brewers: Gus Varland RHP, (Dodgers)
11. Phillies: Noah Song, RHP (Red Sox)
12. Padres: Jose Lopez, LHP (Rays)
13. Mariners: Chris Clarke, RHP (Cubs)
14. Cardinals: Wilking Rodriguez, RHP (Yankees)
15. Mets: Zach Green, RHP (Yankees)

CLASS AAA PHASE
ROUND 1
1. Athletics: Joelvis Del Rosario, RHP (Pirates)
2. Pirates: Wei-Chieh Huang, RHP (Giants)
3. Reds: Kyle Glogoski, RHP (Phillies)
4. Royals: Shervyen Newton, SS (Phillies)
5. Tigers: Layne Henderson, RHP (Astros)
6. Rockies: Eli Lingos, LHP (Guardians)
7. Marlins: Dane Myers, 3B (Tigers)
8. Angels: Ronaldo Flores, C (Giants)
9. Diamondbacks: Taylor Rashi, RHP (Giants)
10. Cubs: Jose Aquino, LHP (Mariners)
11. Twins: Armani Smith, OF (Giants)
12. Red Sox: Joe Jacques, LHP Pirates)
13. White Sox: Ernesto Jaquez, RHP (Astros)
14. Orioles: Alfred Vega, RHP (Yankees)
15. Brewers: Isaac Collins, 2B (Rockies)
16. Rays: Hector Perez, RHP (Orioles)
17. Phillies: Pedro Martinez, SS (Rays)
18. Padres: Evan Mendoza, 3B (Cardinals)
19. Mariners: Francisco Tostado, 1B (Giants)
20. Guardians: Bradley Hanner, RHP (Twins)
21. Blue Jays: Kekai Rios, C (Dodgers)
22. Cardinals: Jose Alvarez, C (Astros)
23. Yankees: Pablo Mujica, LHP (Royals)
24. Mets: Wilkin Ramos, RHP (Pirates)
25. Braves: Domingo Gonzalez, RHP (Pirates)
26. Astros: Max Roberts, LHP (Mariners)
27. Dodgers: Yon Castro, RHP (Yankees)

ROUND 2
29. Pirates: Joshua Palacios, OF (Nationals)
30. Reds: Brooks Crawford, RHP (Giants)
31. Rockies: Nicholas Kuzia, RHP (Tigers)
32. Marlins: Austin Roberts, RHP (Pirates)
33. Angels: Jared Oliva, OF (Pirates)
34. Diamondbacks: Denny Larrondo, RHP (Yankees)
35. Cubs: Nick Burdi, RHP (Padres)
36. Twins: Yohander Martinez, SS (Astros)
37. Red Sox: Ryan Miller, RHP (Yankees)
38. Orioles: Trey McGough, LHP (Pirates)
39. Rays: Enmanuel Mejia, RHP (Pirates)
40. Phillies: Yoniel Ramirez, RHP (Giants)
41. Mariners: Logan Warmoth, SS (Blue Jays)
42. Guardians: Michael Berglund, C (Rays)
43. Cardinals: Brandon Komar, RHP (Padres)
44. Mets: Agustin Ruiz, OF (Padres)
45. Astros: Bryan King, LHP (Cubs)
46. Dodgers: Carlo Reyes, RHP (Phillies)

ROUND 3
47. Marlins: Cristian Charle, RHP (Pirates)
48. Angels: Riley Unroe, SS (Mariners)
49. Diamondbacks: Peter Solomon, RHP (Pirates)
50. Cubs: Jefferson Encarnacion, OF (Phillies)
51. Twins: Yoyner Fajardo, INF (Pirates)
52. Orioles: Randy Florentino, C (Rangers)
53. Rays: Nelson Alvarez, RHP (Yankees)
54. Phillies: Zach Linginfelter, RHP (Angels)
55. Guardians: Justin Lewis, RHP (Diamondbacks)
56. Cardinals: Jose Martinez, RHP (Dodgers)
57. Mets: Jonathan Arauz, 2B (Orioles)
58. Astros: Manuel Urias, RHP (Phillies)
59. Dodgers: Josh Stowers, OF (Rangers)

ROUND 4
60. Angels: Willian Suarez, RHP (Giants)
61. Twins: Seth Nordlin, RHP (Rangers)
62. Phillies: Cameron Cannon, SS (Red Sox)
63. Cardinals: Ryan Shreve, RHP (Twins)
64. Mets: Mateo Gil, SS (Rockies)
65. Astros: Luis Rodriguez, LHP (Cubs)

ROUND 5
66. Phillies: Trey Cobb, RHP (Mets)

ROUND 6
67. Phillies: Cody Roberts, C (Orioles)

ROUND 7
68. Phillies: Oliver Dunn, INF (Yankees)

TRANSACTIONS

NFL

Baltimore Ravens: Signed WR Binjimen Victor and DB BoPete Keyes to the practice squad.
Carolina Panthers: Designated DL Henry Anderson to return to practice from the non-football injury list (NFI).
Cincinnati Bengals: Signed P Kevin Huber to the practice squad.
Cleveland Browns: Signed LB Reggie Ragland from the Las Vegas practice squad. Placed LB Sione Takitaki on injured reserve. Signed OT Grant Hermanns and DB Nolan Turner to the practice squad. Claimed WR Jaelon Darden off waivers from Tampa Bay. Placed WR Anthony Schwartz on injured reserve.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	20	5	.800	—
Brooklyn	14	12	.538	6½
Toronto	13	12	.520	7
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	7½
New York	12	13	.480	8

SOUTHEAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	13	12	.520	—
Miami	11	14	.440	2
Washington	11	14	.440	2
Charlotte	7	18	.280	6
Orlando	6	20	.231	7½

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	18	6	.750	—
Cleveland	16	9	.640	2½
Indiana	13	12	.520	5½
Chicago	10	14	.417	8
Detroit	7	20	.259	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	16	8	.667	—
Memphis	16	9	.640	½
Dallas	13	11	.542	3
Houston	7	17	.292	9
San Antonio	6	18	.250	10

NORTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	14	10	.583	—
Utah	15	12	.556	½
Portland	13	11	.542	1
Minnesota	12	12	.500	2
Oklahoma City	11	14	.440	3½

PACIFIC	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	16	8	.667	—
Sacramento	13	10	.565	2½
L.A. Clippers	14	12	.538	3
Golden State	13	13	.500	4
L.A. Lakers	10	14	.417	6

x-Late game

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Detroit 116, at Miami 96
at Cleveland 116, L.A. Lakers 102
Dallas 116, at Denver 115

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
at Chicago 115, Washington 111
at Orlando 116, L.A. Clippers 111 (OT)
at Brooklyn 122, Charlotte 116
at Toronto 126, L.A. Lakers 119
at New York 113, Atlanta 89
at Memphis 123, Oklahoma City 102
at Milwaukee 126, Sacramento 113
at New Orleans 104, Detroit 98
at Minnesota 121, Indiana 115
Golden State at Utah, late
Boston at Phoenix, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
L.A. Clippers at Miami, 7:30
Houston at San Antonio, 8:30
Denver at Portland, 10

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Washington at Indiana, 7
New York at Charlotte, 7
Toronto at Orlando, 7
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 7:30
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia, 7:30
Sacramento at Cleveland, 7:30
Detroit at Memphis, 8
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8:30
Minnesota at Utah, 9
Milwaukee at Dallas, 10

Magic 116, Clippers 111 (OT)

L.A. CLIPPERS	32	17	29	21	12	—111
ORLANDO	14	26	31	28	17	—116

L.A. CLIPPERS: Batum 6-11 0-0 16, Leonard 4-15 4-4 14, Zubac 6-9 4-8 16, George 3-12 3-3 11, Jackson 5-20 3-3 15, Covington 4-9 0-0 10, Coffey 1-3 1-2 3, Mann 7-10 2-2 19, Brown 3-6 1-4 7. **Totals** 39-95 18-26 111.

ORLANDO: Banchero 5-13 13-14 23, Bol 9-14 1-1 20, M.Wagner 7-13 5-5 20, F.Wagner 6-19 2-3 15, Fultz 0-4 1-2 1, Schofield 4-7 0-0 9, Ross 0-3 0-0 0, Bamba 3-6 0-0 8, Anthony 5-13 1-1 13, Houstan 1-2 3-3 5, K.Harris 0-1 2-2 2. **Totals** 40-95 28-31 116.

Three-point Goals: L.A. Clippers 15-41 (Batum 4-9, Mann 3-5, Covington 2-6, George 2-6, Leonard 2-6, Jackson 2-8, Coffey 0-1), Orlando 8-28 (Bamba 2-3, Anthony 2-5, Bol 1-2, Schofield 1-3, M.Wagner 1-4, F.Wagner 1-6, Houstan 0-1, Banchero 0-2, Ross 0-2). **Fouled Out:** L.A. Clippers 1 (Zubac), Orlando None. **Rebounds:** L.A. Clippers 53 (Zubac 13), Orlando 53 (M.Wagner 13). **Assists:** L.A. Clippers 26 (Batum, George 5), Orlando 20 (Anthony, Fultz 4). **Total Fouls:** L.A. Clippers 19, Orlando 21. **A:** 14,429 (18,846)

Nets 122, Hornets 116

CHARLOTTE	28	27	32	29	— 116
BROOKLYN	38	35	23	26	— 122

CHARLOTTE: McDaniels 8-14 2-2 19, Washington 5-13 1-4 12, Plumlee 5-8 3-8 13, Oubre Jr. 11-20 3-5 28, Rozier 13-24 0-1 29, Thor 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 2-4 0-0 5, Richards 1-1 0-0 2, Maledon 1-1 3-3 5, McGowens 1-3 0-0 3. **Totals** 47-88 12-23 116.

BROOKLYN: Durant 12-19 3-3 29, O'Neale 1-6 0-0 3, Claxton 6-9 2-6 14, Harris 3-6 0-0 8, Irving 14-24 4-4 33, Morris 2-5 0-0 6, Warren 0-1 0-0 0, Curry 8-11 1-1 20, Sumner 3-3 2-2 9, Thomas 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals** 49-86 12-16 122.

Three-point Goals: Charlotte 10-24 (Rozier 3-6, Oubre Jr. 3-7, Jones 1-1, McGowens 1-2, McDaniels 1-4, Washington 1-4), Brooklyn 12-31 (Curry 3-6, Harris 2-4, Morris 2-4, Durant 2-5, Sumner 1-1, O'Neale 1-4, Irving 1-7). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Charlotte 40 (Plumlee 11), Brooklyn 39 (Durant 9). **Assists:** Charlotte 25 (Washington 7), Brooklyn 33 (Irving 9). **Total Fouls:** Charlotte 18, Brooklyn 20. **A:** 16,903 (17,732)

Raptors 126, Lakers 113

L.A. LAKERS	31	16	28	38	— 113
TORONTO	39	31	27	29	— 126

L.A. LAKERS: Reaves 4-12 1-1 10, Toscano-Anderson 1-2 1-2 3, Bryant 3-5 10-10 16, Schroder 5-10 7-7 18, Walker IV 5-16 0-0 12, Brown Jr. 2-6 4-4 8, Jones 4-5 2-2 10, Christie 2-5 0-0 5, Nunn 6-13 2-2 15, Westbrook 5-13 5-7 16. **Totals** 37-87 32-35 113.

TORONTO: Anunoby 8-19 5-6 23, Siakam 10-20 4-5 25, Koloko 0-3 1-2 1, Barnes 6-12 0-0 13, VanVleet 8-20 6-6 25, Banton 0-0 0-0 0, Young 0-1 0-0 0, Boucher 7-11 0-0 16, Champagnie 0-0 0-0 0, Trent Jr. 6-15 4-5 18, Dowtin Jr. 0-1 0-0 0, Flynn 2-4 0-0 5. **Totals** 47-106 20-24 126.

Three-point Goals: L.A. Lakers 7-33 (Walker IV 2-7, Christie 1-3, Schroder 1-4, Westbrook 1-4, Nunn 1-5, Reaves 1-6, Bryant 0-1, Brown Jr. 0-3), Toronto 12-43 (VanVleet 3-12, Boucher 2-5, Anunoby 2-8, Trent Jr. 2-9, Flynn 1-1, Barnes 1-2, Siakam 1-4, Koloko 0-1, Young 0-1). **Fouled Out:** L.A. Lakers None, Toronto 1 (Koloko). **Rebounds:** L.A. Lakers 46 (Jones 10), Toronto 54 (Barnes 17). **Assists:** L.A. Lakers 15 (Reaves, Schroder, Westbrook 3), Toronto 25 (Siakam, VanVleet 7). **Total Fouls:** L.A. Lakers 17, Toronto 22. **A:** 19,800 (19,800)

Knicks 113, Hawks 89

ATLANTA	20	21	26	22	— 89
NEW YORK	31	22	36	24	— 113

ATLANTA: Griffin 3-13 2-2 9, Johnson 2-2 1-1 6, Capela 6-7 1-2 13, Murray 0-0 2-2 2, Young 9-20 1-2 19, Kaminsky 0-0 0-0 0, Okongwu 2-5 6-8 10, Culver 1-5 0-0 2, J.Holiday 2-7 0-0 5, A.Holiday 2-7 2-2 7, Bogdanovic 3-16 3-3 9, Krejci 2-3 1-2 7. **Totals** 32-85 19-24 89.

NEW YORK: Barrett 4-13 5-7 15, Randle 10-19 8-8 34, Robinson 4-4 0-0 8, Brunson 2-14 4-4 8, Grimes 8-11 2-2 23, Toppin 1-3 0-0 3, Hartenstein 2-4 0-0 4, Mykhailiuk 1-1 0-0 3, Sims 2-2 0-0 4, McBride 1-4 0-0 3, Quickley 2-8 3-3 8. **Totals** 37-83 22-24 113.

Three-point Goals: Atlanta 6-36 (Krejci 2-2, Johnson 1-1, J.Holiday 1-3, A.Holiday 1-5, Griffin 1-8, Okongwu 0-1, Culver 0-2, Young 0-4, Bogdanovic 0-10), New York 17-36 (Randle 6-12, Grimes 5-7, Barrett 2-6, Mykhailiuk 1-1, McBride 1-2, Quickley 1-2, Toppin 1-3, Hartenstein 0-1, Brunson 0-2). **Fouled Out:** Atlanta 1 (Johnson), New York None. **Rebounds:** Atlanta 39 (Capela 11), New York 55 (Randle 17). **Assists:** Atlanta 16 (Young 6), New York 26 (Brunson, McBride 6). **Total Fouls:** Atlanta 17, New York 23. **A:** 18,091 (19,812)

Bucks 126, Kings 113

SACRAMENTO	29	32	33	19	— 113
MILWAUKEE	34	34	29	29	— 126

SACRAMENTO: Barnes 6-11 6-7 20, Murray 6-10 0-0 15, Sabonis 9-11 4-4 23, Fox 5-16 4-4 15, Huerter 5-9 0-0 13, Holmes 1-1 0-0 2, Lyles 0-3 0-0 0, Metu 2-4 0-0 5, Okpala 0-1 0-0 0, Len 0-1 0-0 0, Dellavedova 0-0 0-0 0, Ellis 0-0 0-0 0, Mitchell 2-5 0-0 4, Monk 7-19 1-1 16. **Totals** 43-91 15-16 113.

MILWAUKEE: G.Antetokounmpo 12-19 9-10 35, Middleton 5-10 2-2 14, Lopez 6-15 3-3 17, Allen 4-7 0-0 10, Holiday 12-23 5-6 31, Portis 3-5 1-2 7, T.Antetokounmpo 0-0 0-0 0, Mamukelashvili 0-1 0-0 0, Carter 1-4 0-0 3, Connaughton 2-7 0-1 6, Green 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 1-4 0-0 3. **Totals** 46-95 20-24 126.

Three-point Goals: Sacramento 12-38 (Huerter 3-6, Murray 3-6, Barnes 2-6, Sabonis 1-1, Metu 1-2, Fox 1-6, Monk 1-7, Lyles 0-1, Okpala 0-1, Mitchell 0-2), Milwaukee 14-32 (G.Antetokounmpo 2-2, Allen 2-4, Holiday 2-4, Middleton 2-4, Connaughton 2-6, Lopez 2-7, Carter 1-2, Hill 1-3). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Sacramento 40 (Sabonis 12), Milwaukee 50 (Lopez 9). **Assists:** Sacramento 19 (Sabonis 7), Milwaukee 34 (G.Antetokounmpo 7). **Total Fouls:** Sacramento 17, Milwaukee 15. **A:** 17,341 (17,500)

Grizzlies 123, Thunder 102

OKLAHOMA CITY	25	27	35	15	— 102
MEMPHIS	27	30	37	29	— 123

OKLAHOMA CITY: Jal.Williams 3-12 0-0 7, Pokusevski 4-7 0-0 10, Robinson-Earl 4-11 0-0 9, Giddey 4-13 0-0 10, Gilgeous-Alexander 4-14 17-19 26, Jay.Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Omoruyi 5-11 0-0 11, Muscala 1-2 0-0 3, Joe 2-6 2-2 8, Mann 4-9 1-2 12, Wiggins 3-5 0-0 6. **Totals** 34-92 20-23 102.

MEMPHIS: Brooks 9-19 1-1 24, Jackson Jr. 5-9 0-0 12, Adams 4-4 0-1 8, Konchar 3-9 1-1 7, Morant 8-16 8-10 26, Clarke 8-10 1-1 17, Roddy 3-5 0-0 8, Tillman 0-0 0-0 0, Z.Williams 2-9 0-0 4, Aldama 5-8 2-2 14, Jones 1-5 0-0 3. **Totals** 48-94 13-16 123.

Three-point Goals: Oklahoma City 14-38 (Mann 3-6, Giddey 2-3, Pokusevski 2-4, Joe 2-5, Muscala 1-2, Gilgeous-Alexander 1-4, Jal.Williams 1-4, Robinson-Earl 1-4, Omoruyi 1-5, Jay.Williams 0-1), Memphis 14-38 (Brooks 5-12, Morant 2-3, Aldama 2-4, Jackson Jr. 2-4, Roddy 2-4, Jones 1-3, Konchar 0-4, Z.Williams 0-4). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Oklahoma City 48 (Giddey 10), Memphis 50 (Morant 13). **Assists:** Oklahoma City 25 (Gilgeous-Alexander 7), Memphis 32 (Morant 11). **Total Fouls:** Oklahoma City 16, Memphis 19. **A:** 15,942 (18,119)

Pelicans 104, Pistons 98

DETROIT	28	15	30	25	— 98
NEW ORLEANS	27	29	23	25	— 104

DETROIT: Bogdanovic 1-8 2-2 5, Stewart 3-8 2-2 10, Bagley III 0-4 0-0 0, Ivey 4-10 2-4 12, K.Hayes 8-17 0-0 17, Bey 9-17 2-2 25, Knox II 1-6 0-0 3, Duren 5-5 2-2 12, Burks 4-10 3-4 14, Diallo 0-1 0-0 0, Joseph 0-4 0-0 0. **Totals** 35-90 13-16 98.

NEW ORLEANS: Murphy III 6-13 4-4 20, Williamson 11-16 7-11 29, Valanciunas 7-16 0-0 14, Daniels 2-5 2-3 6, McCollum 3-11 2-2 8, Marshall 6-7 2-2 17, Nance Jr. 2-5 0-0 5, Alvarado 1-6 0-0 2, Graham 1-6 1-1 3. **Totals** 39-85 18-23 104.

Three-point Goals: Detroit 15-42 (Bey 5-10, Burks 3-6, Ivey 2-5, Stewart 2-5, Bogdanovic 1-4, K.Hayes 1-5, Knox II 1-5, Joseph 0-2), New Orleans 8-27 (Murphy III 4-9, Marshall 3-4, Nance Jr. 1-2, McCollum 0-1, Daniels 0-2, Valanciunas 0-2, Alvarado 0-3, Graham 0-4). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Detroit 42 (Duren 13), New Orleans 50 (Valanciunas 12). **Assists:** Detroit 17 (K.Hayes 12), New Orleans 21 (Murphy III, Williamson 5). **Total Fouls:** Detroit 23, New Orleans 21. **A:** 14,073 (16,867)

Timberwolves 121, Pacers 115

INDIANA	17	44	29	25	— 115
MINNESOTA	35	28	27	31	— 121

INDIANA: Hield 9-15 1-1 26, Nesmith 3-8 2-2 9, Turner 8-11 3-4 23, Haliburton 9-14 3-3 26, Nembhard 3-10 0-0 7, Jackson 1-2 2-2 4, Bitadze 0-0 0-0 0, Mathurin 5-16 3-6 14, Brissett 0-1 2-4 2, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, McConnell 1-4 2-2 4. **Totals** 39-81 18-24 115.

MINNESOTA: Anderson 3-6 1-1 7, McDaniels 5-10 0-0 12, Gobert 6-11 4-5 16, Edwards 8-18 9-10 26, Russell 9-18 6-6 28, Reid 3-5 0-0 6, Garza 1-3 2-2 4, McLaughlin 3-5 0-0 6, Moore Jr. 0-0 0-0 0, Nowell 5-13 3-3 14, Rivers 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals** 44-92 25-27 121.

Three-point Goals: Indiana 19-42 (Hield 7-11, Haliburton 5-9, Turner 4-6, Nembhard 1-4, Mathurin 1-5, Nesmith 1-6, Brissett 0-1), Minnesota 8-23 (Russell 4-9, McDaniels 2-4, Edwards 1-3, Nowell 1-3, Garza 0-1, McLaughlin 0-1, Reid 0-1, Rivers 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Indiana 31 (Turner 8), Minnesota 50 (Gobert 20). **Assists:** Indiana 22 (Haliburton 15), Minnesota 25 (Edwards 8). **Total Fouls:** Indiana 17, Minnesota 21. **A:** 15,472 (19,356)

Jazz 124, Warriors 123

GOLDEN STATE	35	34	22	32	— 123
UTAH	30	36	34	24	— 124

GOLDEN STATE: J.Green 3-7 0-0 7, Thompson 8-25 2-2 22, Looney 3-5 1-1 7, Jerome 2-6 0-0 4, Poole 10-23 12-13 36, Kuminga 10-13 3-5 24, Lamb 3-7 0-2 7, Wiseman 1-2 1-2 3, DiVincenzo 3-6 0-0 7, Moody 2-4 0-0 6. **Totals** 45-98 19-25 123.

UTAH: Beasley 7-14 0-0 18, Olynyk 5-11 4-4 15, Kessler 5-6 0-0 10, Clarkson 9-20 2-2 22, Sexton 4-9 8-10 17, Fontecchio 6-10 3-5 18, Vanderbilt 2-3 0-0 4, Gay 4-8 0-0 9, Agbaji 0-0 0-0 0, Alexander-Walker 4-5 0-0 11. **Totals** 46-86 17-21 124.

Three-point Goals: Golden State 14-42 (Thompson 4-11, Poole 4-13, Moody 2-3, DiVincenzo 1-3, J.Green 1-3, Kuminga 1-3, Lamb 1-4, Jerome 0-2), Utah 15-35 (Beasley 4-9, Alexander-Walker 3-4, Fontecchio 3-6, Clarkson 2-6, Gay 1-3, Sexton 1-3, Olynyk 1-4). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Golden State 42 (DiVincenzo, Looney 9), Utah 40 (Kessler 12). **Assists:** Golden State 26 (Poole 8), Utah 26 (Clarkson 9). **Total Fouls:** Golden State 18, Utah 17. **A:** 18,206 (18,206)

Mavericks 116, Nuggets 115

Late Tuesday

DALLAS	36	28	27	25	— 116
DENVER	29	29	28	29	— 115

DALLAS: Finney-Smith 7-13 0-0 19, Hardaway Jr. 7-12 9-12 29, Powell 3-3 2-2 8, Dinwiddie 3-8 6-6 13, Doncic 5-17 8-9 22, Kleber 4-6 0-0 9, Wood 6-7 2-2 14, Bullock 0-1 0-0 0, Jo.Green 1-5 0-0 2. **Totals** 36-72 27-31 116.

DENVER: Brown 3-7 4-4 12, Gordon 10-13 5-7 27, Jokic 7-13 5-6 19, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 12, Murray 2-11 7-9 11, Cancar 0-1 0-0 0, Je.Green 3-4 0-1 7, Nnaji 1-1 0-0 2, Braun 2-4 0-0 5, Hyland 7-15 1-1 20. **Totals** 40-78 22-28 115.

Three-point Goals: Dallas 17-36 (Hardaway Jr. 6-8, Finney-Smith 5-10, Doncic 4-9, Dinwiddie 1-2, Kleber 1-3, Bullock 0-1, Wood 0-1, Jo.Green 0-2), Denver 13-32 (Hyland 5-10, Gordon 2-2, Brown 2-3, Caldwell-Pope 2-5, Braun 1-2, Je.Green 1-2, Jokic 0-3, Murray 0-5). **Fouled Out:** Dallas 1 (Finney-Smith), Denver None. **Rebounds:** Dallas 35 (Doncic 10), Denver 36 (Gordon, Jokic 8). **Assists:** Dallas 27 (Doncic 12), Denver 30 (Jokic 8). **Total Fouls:** Dallas 32, Denver 28. **A:** 19,520 (19,520)

NBA LEADERS

Entering Wednesday's games.

SCORING	G	FG	FT	PTS.	AVG.
Doncic, DAL	23	259	173	756	32.9
Antetokounmpo, MIL	19	223	145	606	31.9
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	22	235	197	689	31.3
Tatum, BOS	24	242	172	738	30.8
Curry, GS	23	233	106	689	30.0
Durant, BKN	25	265	178	747	29.9
Mitchell, CLE	23	233	113	668	29.0
Morant, MEM	20	198	136	569	28.5
Booker, PHO	24	244	136	681	28.4
Young, ATL	22	194	171	607	27.6
Davis, L.A.L.	21	217	130	573	27.3
Brown, BOS	23	228	104	615	26.7
James, L.A.L.	17	171	56	439	25.8
DeRozan, CHI	23	208	160	586	25.5
Simons, POR	22	187	76	543	24.7
Williamson, NO	18	163	96	425	23.6
Fox, SAC	21	180	86	486	23.1

FIELD GOALS	FG	FGA	PCT.
Claxton, BKN	127	174	.730
Gobert, MIN	103	158	.652
Poeltl, SA	114	178	.640
Jokic, DEN	181	287	.631
Zubac, L.A.C.	106	169	.627
Ayton, PHO	163	262	.622
Richards, CHA	88	142	.620
Gordon, DEN	134	217	.618
Capela, ATL	116	189	.614
Allen, CLE	105	174	.603
Clarke, MEM	91	151	.603
Bol, ORL	128	213	.601
Sabonis, SAC	133	222	.599
Williamson, NO	163	276	.591
Davis, L.A.L.	217	368	.590
Mobley, CLE	152	270	.563
Wood, DAL	131	233	.562
Olynyk, UTA	117	209	.560
Sengun, HOU	120	216	.556

THREE-POINTERS	3FG	3FGA	PCT.
Watanabe, BKN	24	42	.571
Brogdon, BOS	38	77	.494
Kennard, L.A.C.	25	51	.490
Lee, PHO	45	93	.484
Ingram, NO	28	60	.467
Horford, BOS	41	88	.466
Olynyk, UTA	41	88	.466
Hauser, BOS	49	106	.462
Kispert, WAS	30	65	.462
Grant, POR	65	141	.461
Caldwell-Pope, DEN	48	105	.457
Williams, BOS	41	90	.456
Bane, MEM	46	102	.451
Wiggins, GS	67	149	.450
Bridges, PHO	42	94	.447
Green, DAL	24	54	.444
Bogdanovic, DET	64	145	.441
Hyland, DEN	45	102	.441

TENNIS

WTA

OPEN ANGERS ARENA LOIRE
At Arena Loire; In Angers, France
Purse: $97,268
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Magali Kempen, Belgium, def. Alison van Uytvanck (3), Belgium, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Jaqueline Adina Cristian, Romania, def. Hina Inoue, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5); Emeline Dartron, France, def. Pemra Ozgen, Turkiye, 6-7 (7-2), 6-3, 6-2; Alycia Parks, United States, def. Zhang Shuai (1), China, 6-2, 6-3; Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, def. Diane Parry, France, 6-3, 6-2.

SINGLES — ROUND OF 16
Jessika Ponchet, France, def. Greet Minnen, Belgium, 7-5, 6-2; Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Viktoriya Tomova (7), Bulgaria, 6-2, 6-2.

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	25	21	3	1	43	100	53
Toronto	27	16	5	6	38	83	66
Detroit	25	13	7	5	31	81	78
Tampa Bay	25	15	9	1	31	86	79
Florida	26	12	10	4	28	90	88
Montreal	26	13	11	2	28	80	92
Buffalo	26	12	13	1	25	105	96
Ottawa	25	10	14	1	21	77	83

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	26	21	4	1	43	96	57
Carolina	26	14	6	6	34	77	73
Pittsburgh	26	14	8	4	32	93	79
N.Y. Islanders	27	16	11	0	32	86	73
x-N.Y. Rangers	27	12	10	5	29	82	80
Washington	28	12	12	4	28	78	86
Philadelphia	27	9	13	5	23	65	89
Columbus	25	8	15	2	18	71	105

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	24	16	7	1	33	79	61
Dallas	26	14	7	5	33	98	76
Minnesota	25	13	10	2	28	81	79
Colorado	24	13	10	1	27	78	70
Nashville	23	12	9	2	26	63	70
St. Louis	26	12	14	0	24	80	100
x-Arizona	23	7	12	4	18	61	81
Chicago	25	7	14	4	18	61	91

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Vegas	27	19	7	1	39	94	71
Seattle	25	15	7	3	33	90	79
Los Angeles	28	14	10	4	32	97	99
Calgary	26	13	10	3	29	81	79
x-Edmonton	26	14	12	0	28	89	93
x-Vancouver	26	11	12	3	25	91	101
x-San Jose	28	8	16	4	20	82	103
Anaheim	27	7	17	3	17	69	114

x-Late game

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
at New Jersey 3, Chicago 0
Detroit 4, at Tampa Bay 2
Los Angeles 5, at Ottawa 2
at Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 1
St. Louis 7, at N.Y. Islanders 4
at Winnipeg 5, Florida 2
Toronto 4, at Dallas 0
Montreal 4, at Seattle 2
at Anaheim 4, Carolina 3 (OT)

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 4, at Philadelphia 1
Buffalo 9, at Columbus 4
at Calgary 5, Minnesota 3
Boston 4, at Colorado 0
Arizona at Edmonton, late
N.Y. Rangers at Vegas, late
Vancouver at San Jose, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7
Detroit at Florida, 7:30
Winnipeg at St. Louis, 8
Ottawa at Dallas, 8:30

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Seattle at Washington, 7
Calgary at Columbus, 7
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 7
Winnipeg at Chicago, 8:30
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9
Boston at Arizona, 9:30
Philadelphia at Vegas, 10
San Jose at Anaheim, 10

Sabres 9, Blue Jackets 4

BUFFALO	6	3	0	— 9
COLUMBUS	0	2	2	— 4

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Buffalo, Cozens 10 (Thompson, Dahlin), 3:21 (pp). 2, Buffalo, Thompson 17 (Tuch), 5:32. 3, Buffalo, Dahlin 9 (Quinn, Cozens), 7:28. 4, Buffalo, Thompson 18 (Skinner, Tuch), 7:50. 5, Buffalo, Thompson 19 (Skinner, Cozens), 12:22 (pp). 6, Buffalo, Thompson 20 (Skinner, Dahlin), 16:40 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 7, Columbus, Laine 5 (Roslovic), 10:49. 8, Columbus, Nyquist 5 (Gaudreau, Jenner), 12:04. 9, Buffalo, Thompson 21 (Bryson, Tuch), 16:07. 10, Buffalo, Krebs 1, 17:19. 11, Buffalo, Tuch 13 (Skinner, Bryson), 19:16.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 12, Columbus, Laine 6 (Gavrikov, Chinakhov), 4:47. 13, Columbus, Nyquist 6 (Bjork), 15:49.
SHOTS ON GOAL

BUFFALO	14	12	4	— 30
COLUMBUS	5	12	7	— 24

Power-play opportunities: Buffalo 3 of 5; Columbus 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Buffalo, Luukkonen 3-2-1 (24 shots-20 saves). Columbus, Korpisalo 4-5-1 (9-6), Columbus, Merzlikins 2-7-0 (21-15). **A:** 15,659 (18,500). **T:** 2:25.

Flames 5, Wild 3

MINNESOTA	2	0	1	— 3
CALGARY	0	3	2	— 5

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Minnesota, Kaprizov 17 (Zuccarello, Dumba), 1:27. 2, Minnesota, Shaw 4 (Merrill, Dewar), 2:25.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Calgary, Kadri 10 (Lindholm, Andersson), 0:16 (pp). 4, Calgary, Coleman 5 (Backlund, Ruzicka), 1:37. 5, Calgary, Toffoli 9 (Andersson, Lindholm), 3:11 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 6, Minnesota, Merrill 1 (Shaw, Dewar), 15:45. 7, Calgary, Andersson 4 (Coleman, Ruzicka), 15:57. 8, Calgary, Toffoli 10 (Lindholm, Huberdeau), 18:50 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

MINNESOTA	8	9	11	— 28
CALGARY	8	9	10	— 27

Power-play opportunities: Minnesota 0 of 4; Calgary 2 of 6. **Goalies:** Minnesota, Fleury 9-6-1 (26 shots-22 saves). Calgary, Vladar 5-4-1 (28-25). **A:** 17,562 (19,289). **T:** 2:31.

Bruins 4, Avalanche 0

BOSTON	0	2	2	— 4
COLORADO	0	0	0	— 0

SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Boston, Pastrnak 18 (Grzelcyk, Krejci), 3:49. 2, Boston, Hall 10 (Coyle, Frederic), 9:50.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Boston, Frederic 6 (Hall, Coyle), 6:24. 4, Boston, Hall 11 (DeBrusk), 9:42.
SHOTS ON GOAL

BOSTON	15	13	9	— 37
COLORADO	11	7	5	— 23

Power-play opportunities: Boston 0 of 3; Colorado 0 of 4. **Goalies:** Boston, Ullmark 15-1-0 (23 shots-23 saves). Colorado, Georgiev 11-5-1 (37-33). **A:** 18,119 (18,007). **T:** 2:29.

Ducks 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT)

Late Tuesday

CAROLINA	1	2	0	0	— 3
ANAHEIM	2	1	0	1	— 4

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Anaheim, Henrique 8 (Terry, Shattenkirk), 3:59. 2, Carolina, Skjei 4 (Stastny, Drury), 5:38. 3, Anaheim, Comtois 5 (Silfverberg, Carrick), 11:13.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Carolina, Aho 11 (Jarvis, Slavin), 10:16. 5, Anaheim, Leason 3 (McTavish, Jones), 10:59. 6, Carolina, Staal 6 (Burns, Fast), 15:49.
OVERTIME
Scoring: 7, Anaheim, Strome 7 (Fowler, Vatrano), 1:56.
SHOTS ON GOAL

CAROLINA	10	20	7	0	—37
ANAHEIM	9	10	10	1	—30

Power-play opportunities: Carolina 0 of 2; Anaheim 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Carolina, Kochetkov 5-1-4 (30 shots-26 saves). Anaheim, Gibson 5-12-3 (37-34). **A:** 14,576 (17,174). **T:** 2:29.

Canadiens 4, Kraken 2

Late Tuesday

MONTREAL	1	3	0	— 4
SEATTLE	1	1	0	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Montreal, Kovacevic 1 (Matheson, Dach), 12:56. 2, Seattle, Wright 1 (Gourde, Bjorkstrand), 15:30.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Montreal, Caufield 15 (Suzuki), 2:05. 4, Montreal, Anderson 7 (Dvorak, Slafkovsky), 2:12. 5, Montreal, Pitlick 1 (Edmundson, Evans), 18:40. 6, Seattle, McCann 12 (Burakovsky), 19:59.
SHOTS ON GOAL

MONTREAL	4	4	8	— 16
SEATTLE	11	8	14	— 33

Power-play opportunities: Montreal 0 of 4; Seattle 0 of 3. **Goalies:** Montreal, Allen 8-9-0 (33 shots-31 saves). Seattle, Jones 12-5-2 (16-12). **A:** 17,151 (17,100). **T:** 2:28.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA men

EAST
Army 63, NJIT 62
Brown 59, Rhode Island 58
Colgate 81, Binghamton 62
Delaware 77, Delaware State 69
Georgetown 75, Siena 68
Michigan State 67, Penn State 58
Morgan State 95, Penn State Wilkes-Barre 48
Seton Hall 82, Lincoln (Pa.) 55
St. John's 86, DePaul 67
Villanova 70, Penn 59
West Virginia 85, Navy 64
SOUTH
Davidson 72, Western Carolina 64
Clemson 80, Towson 75
Connecticut 75, Florida 54
FAU 85, Florida Gulf Coast 53
Georgia Southern 91, Piedmont 47
Hampton 65, Loyola (Md.) 61
Jacksonville 73, VCU 62
Miami 107, Cornell 105
North Alabama 71, Alabama State 63
Old Dominion 72, William & Mary 62
Vanderbilt 75, Pittsburgh 74
Tennessee 84, Eastern Kentucky 49
VMI 106, Carlow 67
Virginia Tech 77, Dayton 49
MIDWEST
Ball State 76, Eastern Illinois 59
Drake 78, Omaha 65
Illinois State 87, Eastern Michigan 81
Indiana 81, Nebraska 65
Notre Dame 81, Boston U. 75
Purdue 85, Hofstra 66
Robert Morris 71, Central Michigan 66
SOUTHWEST
Arizona State 75, SMU 57
Detroit 76, Tulsa 72
Texas Tech 78, Nicholls 71
WEST
Utah Valley State 75, BYU 60
Washington State 68, Northern Kentucky 47

Virginia Tech 77, Dayton 49

Dayton (5-5)
Amzil 2-6 0-0 5, Camara 2-9 4-4 9, Holmes 5-15 3-4 13, Blakney 2-4 1-1 5, Sharavjamts 3-12 0-1 6, Brea 2-5 0-0 5, Washington 1-2 1-3 3, Nwokeji 1-5 1-4 3, Amaefule 0-2 0-0 0, Uhl 0-0 0-0 0, Schuler 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 18-60 10-17 49.**
Virginia Tech (9-1)
Basile 9-17 1-2 23, Mutts 0-0 2-2 2, Cattoor 3-8 0-0 7, Maddox 5-13 0-0 12, Pedulla 8-13 1-1 19, Collins 1-4 0-0 2, Kidd 3-5 0-0 6, Poteat 1-1 2-2 4, Camden 0-1 0-0 0, Dawyot 1-1 0-0 2, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Ward 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 31-63 6-7 77.**
Halftime: Virginia Tech 42-21. **Three-point goals:** Dayton 3-15 (Camara 1-2, Brea 1-3, Amzil 1-4, Blakney 0-1, Nwokeji 0-2, Sharavjamts 0-3), Virginia Tech 9-28 (Basile 4-9, Maddox 2-5, Pedulla 2-5, Cattoor 1-6, Camden 0-1, Collins 0-2). **Fouled out:** Pedulla. **Rebounds:** Dayton 39 (Holmes 10), Virginia Tech 30 (Basile 10). **Assists:** Dayton 7 (Blakney, Sharavjamts 2), Virginia Tech 13 (Maddox, Collins 3). **Total fouls:** Dayton 11, Virginia Tech 18. **A:** 7,702 (10,052).

Georgetown 75, Siena 68

Siena (5-4)
Stormo 6-10 9-10 21, Billups 1-7 1-2 3, Johnson 3-6 0-0 7, McCollum 4-14 2-3 12, Platek 4-8 0-0 12, Baer 1-2 0-0 3, Eley 1-10 0-0 3, Lane 1-2 0-0 2, Gribben 1-4 0-0 2, Tekin 0-0 3-3 3. **Totals 22-63 15-18 68.**
Georgetown (5-5)
Akok 1-4 0-0 2, Wahab 5-11 0-1 10, Heath 7-16 1-2 16, Murray 7-14 4-6 20, Spears 7-11 3-5 18, Mozone 2-3 0-0 5, Ezewiro 1-1 2-2 4, Bristol 0-1 0-0 0, Anglin 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 30-61 10-16 75.**
Halftime: Georgetown 37-36. **Three-point goals:** Siena 9-27 (Platek 4-7, McCollum 2-8, Baer 1-2, Johnson 1-3, Eley 1-4, Billups 0-1, Gribben 0-2), Georgetown 5-16 (Murray 2-4, Mozone 1-1, Spears 1-1, Heath 1-6, Bristol 0-1, Akok 0-3). **Fouled out:** Ezewiro. **Rebounds:** Siena 35 (Billups 9), Georgetown 39 (Wahab 12). **Assists:** Siena 14 (McCollum, Platek 3), Georgetown 14 (Spears 8). **Total fouls:** Siena 16, Georgetown 14. **A:** 3,526 (20,356).

West Virginia 85, Navy 64

Navy (5-4)
Deaver 4-6 0-0 8, Nelson 2-8 0-2 6, Inge 0-4 0-0 0, Jones 4-7 0-0 9, Yoder 4-7 0-0 10, Benigni 8-10 3-4 20, Dorsey 2-6 0-0 6, Allison 1-4 0-2 2, MacDonald 1-2 0-0 3, Fischer 0-0 0-0 0, Rehnstrom 0-1 0-0 0, Roach 0-0 0-0 0, Woods 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 26-56 3-8 64.**
West Virginia (7-2)
Bell 1-5 1-4 3, Matthews 3-7 2-2 9, Mitchell 8-12 0-0 19, Ke.Johnson 3-4 4-5 11, Stevenson 5-9 0-0 13, Toussaint 5-10 0-0 12, Ko.Johnson 3-3 0-0 6, Wilson 0-3 1-1 1, Wague 1-1 0-2 2, Harris 2-3 2-2 7, Okonkwo 1-1 0-0 2, Suemnick 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 32-58 10-16 85.**
Halftime: West Virginia 48-38. **Three-point goals:** Navy 9-23 (Dorsey 2-4, Yoder 2-5, Nelson 2-6, Benigni 1-1, Jones 1-1, MacDonald 1-2, Rehnstrom 0-1, Inge 0-3), West Virginia 11-24 (Mitchell 3-4, Stevenson 3-7, Toussaint 2-4, Harris 1-2, Ke.Johnson 1-2, Matthews 1-3, Wilson 0-2). **Rebounds:** Navy 23 (Deaver 7), West Virginia 37 (Stevenson 7). **Assists:** Navy 14 (Nelson 4), West Virginia 22 (Ke.Johnson, Toussaint 7). **Total fouls:** Navy 18, West Virginia 13. **A:** 10,277 (14,000).

NCAA women

EAST
Binghamton 54, Navy 51
Boston U. 73, Merrimack 65
Bryant 67, Sacred Heart 56
Buffalo 63, Niagara 58
Canisius 85, St. Bonaventure 47
Colgate 69, NJIT 51
Columbia 84, Stony Brook 68
Duquesne 73, Kent State 67
Hampton 66, St. Peter's 57
Hofstra 56, Army 53
La Salle 66, Monmouth (N.J.) 60
Massachusetts Lowell 60, CCSU 47
Mount St. Mary's 88, Pittsburgh Johnstown 61
Pittsburgh 78, Loyola (Md.) 42
Providence 62, Brown 44
Quinnipiac 75, Yale 59
Rhode Island 88, Hartford 34
Saint Joseph's 60, Rider 53
Virginia Tech 73, Boston College 58
SOUTH
Alabama State 66, Samford 61
Furman 65, UNC Asheville 64
Georgia 84, Mercer 44
High Point 74, North Carolina Wesleyan 38
North Carolina 64, UNC Wilmington 42
Tulane 103, Troy 100 (2OT)
Virginia 83, William & Mary 54
MIDWEST
Fairfield 90, Dayton 83
Illinois 80, Rutgers 62
Iowa 70, Iowa State 57
Kansas State 72, UMKC 45
Kentucky 80, Minnesota 74
Nebraska 82, Wisconsin 54
Southeast Missouri State 63, Western Illinois 55
Southern Illinois 100, Tennessee State 72
Western Michigan 68, Valparaiso 62
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 91, Texas Arlington 36
Houston 67, UMBC 43
SMU 64, North Texas 46
Texas A&M Commerce 88, Idaho 72
WEST
Air Force 63, Colorado Colorado Springs 51
Colorado 78, Southern Utah 48
San Diego State 70, Sacramento State 59

Virginia 83, William & Mary 54

VIRGINIA	19	27	19	18	— 83
WILLIAM & MARY	12	13	17	12	— 54

Virginia (11-0)
Brunelle 5-8 0-0 13, Taylor 4-9 0-0 8, Dale 0-3 0-0 0, McLean 7-8 11-22, Valladay 6-11 0-0 12, Clarkson 0-1 1-4 1, Lawson 4-8 0-0 9, Miller 2-6 0-2 5, Pauley 2-4 0-0 5, Smith 3-5 0-0 6, Vaughn 1-6 0-0 2, **Totals 34-69 9-17 83**
William & Mary (4-4)
Bellamy 2-3 0-0 4, Frisby-Smith 2-7 0-0 5, Magee 5-8 1-2 11, Casey 3-9 6-7 13, Wagner 2-10 3-3 8, Rolph 2-4 1-4 5, Gilliam 0-4 2-2 2, Mikeska 1-5 2-5 4, Brown 0-1 0-0 0, Wingertzahn 1-2 0-0 2, **Totals 18-53 15-23 54**
Three-point goals: Virginia 6-21 (Brunelle 3-5, Taylor 0-1, Dale 0-1, Valladay 0-1, Lawson 1-4, Miller 1-4, Pauley 1-2, Vaughn 0-3), William & Mary 3-19 (Frisby-Smith 1-3, Casey 1-3, Wagner 1-7, Rolph 0-1, Gilliam 0-2, Mikeska 0-2, Brown 0-1). **Assists:** Virginia 14 (Lawson 4, Valladay 4), William & Mary 10 (Mikeska 3). **Fouled out:** Virginia Pauley. **Rebounds:** Virginia 51 (McLean 17), William & Mary 25 (Frisby-Smith 4, Magee 4, Wingertzahn 4). **Total fouls:** Virginia 24, William & Mary 25. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 553.

No. T-8 North Carolina 64, UNC Wilmington 42

UNC WILMINGTON	12	10	15	5	— 42
NORTH CAROLINA	18	17	18	11	— 64

UNC Wilmington (2-6)
Hoggatt 3-6 0-0 6, Jackson 5-9 1-1 11, Gamble 5-7 0-0 10, Gross 2-8 1-2 6, Range 1-9 0-0 3, Urmuleviciute 1-3 0-0 2, Henderson 0-0 2-2 2, King 0-0 0-0 0, Miller 1-7 0-0 2, **Totals 18-49 4-5 42**
North Carolina (7-1)
Poole 2-5 0-0 4, Hodgson 3-7 0-0 8, Kelly 4-10 1-5 10, Todd-Williams 4-11 2-2 12, Ustby 8-10 0-0 16, Adams 2-5 3-5 7, Tshitenge 0-0 0-0 0, Paris 1-5 2-2 4, Young 0-3 0-0 0, Key 0-4 1-2 1, Zelaya 0-0 2-2 2, **Totals 24-60 11-18 64**
Three-point goals: UNC Wilmington 2-11 (Gross 1-2, Range 1-4, Urmuleviciute 0-2, Miller 0-3), North Carolina 5-16 (Hodgson 2-4, Kelly 1-3, Todd-Williams 2-4, Adams 0-1, Paris 0-2, Young 0-2). **Assists:** UNC Wilmington 8 (Gamble 3), North Carolina 9 (Adams 3). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** UNC Wilmington 37 (Jackson 11), North Carolina 33 (Ustby 10). **Total fouls:** UNC Wilmington 16, North Carolina 15. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 1,918.

McIlroy's efforts off the course make him the sportsperson of 2022



John Feinstein

I have absolutely no problem with Sports Illustrated naming Stephen Curry its sportsperson of the year this week. In June, Curry led the Golden State Warriors to the NBA title — his fourth — and was the Finals MVP. He even went back to Davidson and finished his degree.

He's a class act, a wonderful story and an excellent choice. My only quibble: He was part of the Warriors team that won the award just four years ago.

Still, if I had been consulted — which, remarkably enough, I wasn't — I would have recommended someone else: Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy didn't win a major championship this year, although he finished in the top 10 at all four: second at the Masters, eighth at the PGA Championship, tied for fifth at the U.S. Open and third at the British Open. He did win three times on the PGA Tour — including the Tour Championship despite its screwy format — and claimed the year-long titles on both the PGA Tour (for a third time) and the European tour (for a fourth time).

But that's not why he should be sportsperson of the year. It's because he became the conscience of his sport.

Golf is in the midst of a crisis, divided by the presence of a new circuit that is funded by the government of Saudi Arabia, which is so corrupt that it makes the choice of Qatar as host of the World Cup look like a blip.

There is absolutely no doubt that the money behind LIV Golf is blood money. There's also absolutely no doubt that most golfers and those who have gone to work for LIV don't really care. They point out — correctly — that there are plenty of other corrupt governments that are embraced by the sports world.

Qatar is hosting the World Cup. Russia recently hosted a World Cup and an Olympics. China, which is very much in business with the NBA, has hosted the Olympics twice since 2008. If Qatar, Russia and China can "sportswash," why can't the Saudis?

They can, which is why Hall of Famer Phil Mickelson, British Open champion Cameron Smith and 11 other major champions jumped to LIV for huge guaranteed money, some of it into the hundreds of millions. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's first recruit was Greg Norman, who was hired as LIV's CEO and lead recruiter.

My friend David Feherty, about whom I have just finished a book, also jumped, becoming LIV's lead analyst for millions. Feherty is different from most players in that he made no bones about why he joined the new circuit.

"Money," he said. ". . . I hear, 'Well, it's to grow the game.' Bull. . . . They paid me a lot of money."

Most players who jumped made the "grow the game" claim. The most important players who turned down LIV money — and have been adamant about why — are McIlroy and Tiger Woods.

Woods has been sportsperson of the year twice and is, for all intents and purposes, an emeritus superstar who played all of nine rounds in actual competition this year. He will turn 47 this month and remains a major voice in the game.

But McIlroy is the top-ranked player in the world. He has won four majors but none since 2014. He's 33 — the same age Mickelson was when he won his first major and a year younger than Ben Hogan was when he won his first.

More important in 2022 was his willingness to speak up on behalf of the PGA Tour, both publicly and privately.

Last spring, when his good friend Sergio Garcia was being recruited by LIV, the two had a lengthy talk. Garcia's mind was made up; he told McIlroy this was their chance to "finally get paid what we deserve."

"Sergio, we're *golfers*," McIlroy answered. "We don't *deserve* to be paid anything."

McIlroy is a multi-multi-millionaire, and he has cashed in on his fame and success around the world. He doesn't apologize for that. But unlike so many wealthy professional athletes, he understands that he doesn't *deserve* any of the money he has made.

"I'm lucky that I'm good at a sport that allows me to make a lot of money," he told me this spring. "That doesn't mean I think I deserve it."

McIlroy's sense of the world was shaped differently than that of most of his colleagues. His dad, Gerry, was a bartender at Holywood Golf Club in a middle-class suburb of Belfast. His mom, Rosie, worked in a 3M plant as her only child was growing up, and both parents worked second and third jobs so they could afford to pay for Rory to travel when it became clear his talent as a golfer was undeniable.

Their son is honest and willing to admit mistakes. When he first qualified to play in the Ryder Cup in 2010, he told reporters he would be happy to play, but his goal in golf was to win major championships. The Ryder Cup, he said, was a nice exhibition.

"It took me about 15 minutes after I got to Wales [for the 2010 matches] to know I'd been wrong," he said years later. ". . . Looking back, what I said initially was selfish. I'm an only child, and since I was a kid, *my* golf was the most important thing in my world. I had to readjust my thinking to understand that wasn't true."

He smiled. "Can you imagine that, a golfer being selfish? Had to be a first."

This year, he dueled publicly with Norman and talked with many of his fellow golfers about why staying with the PGA Tour is important. Many, like Garcia, haven't listened. That hasn't stopped McIlroy from telling them and the public what he thinks. Recently, he said Norman needs to "exit stage left" before the PGA Tour and LIV can sit down and negotiate the peace. Woods has said the same thing, and Norman has responded by saying he pays no attention to what either says.

Eventually, with or without Norman, there will be some sort of agreement between LIV and the golf establishment. The Saudis are never going to run out of money, and they are continuing to recruit big names.

Woods still has a voice but tends to be careful with what he says publicly. McIlroy is the No. 1 player in the world and never holds back publicly — and he will still be onstage during major championships in the future.

McIlroy had a great 2022 on the golf course, though not a perfect one. He had a greater year — and a more important one — off the golf course.

For me, he's the sportsperson of the year.



RYAN LIM/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Rory McIlroy claimed his third FedEx Cup title and minced no words as LIV Golf raided the PGA Tour.

Churchill boys eager to defend, chase titles

BY VARUN SHANKAR

When the Churchill football team lost in the Maryland 4A state quarterfinals Nov. 18, five of its players attended their first basketball practice of the winter the next morning. They showed up disappointed from the loss but still carrying the intensity that comes with the playoffs — an energy that infected and reignited the rest of the basketball team.

The Bulldogs got ready to drill one of their signature plays from a year ago, a set senior guard Ezekiel Avit said had become "muscle memory." Avit, also a star wide receiver and University of Maryland football commit, helped the Bulldogs execute it perfectly on his first day back on the court. The play always puts a smile on his face because it almost always works.

"Everybody was moving [fluidly] and just understanding where they had to be," fellow senior guard Isaiah Mbeng said. After they finished running the play, Mbeng thought to himself: "We're going to be really good this year."

Mbeng and Avit form the starting backcourt for a Churchill squad that tipped off the new season Tuesday with a 64-49 triumph over Gaithersburg in Potomac.

The Bulldogs are trying to build off last season, when they won county and region titles but ended the year disappointed after losing in the 4A state final to Eleanor Roosevelt. Avit spent at least two hours each day for more than a week reviewing film of the game, he said, trying to see what he and his team could have done differently to change the result.

"We were just waiting for this day so we could get back to it," he said.

He and the rest of the Bulldogs' returning talent embraced a grueling summer to launch their title defenses and revenge tour.

That quest began as Coach David Blumenthal and the team readied to send their seniors off at the end-of-year banquet, just two days after that gutting five-point double-overtime loss to the Raiders. The coach received a text from Mbeng hours before the event started, and while neither remembered the exact wording, the message was clear.

We're ready to get back to work.

"We just knew that once the game was over, it was right back to it," Mbeng said. "We've got a lot of our guys coming back, can't hang our head on [the loss] too much. I mean, we know it hurt, but we've got more business to take care of this year."

Joy mixed with sorrow at the banquet as the players walked past all their awards and accomplishments. But then they faced the runner-up trophy at the end, a constant reminder of the one challenge they failed to complete.

The Bulldogs sent off their seniors and then validated Mbeng's text to Blumenthal, getting back in the gym the next week.

Blumenthal and the other coaches recognized the work as a manifestation of their team's hunger. The players' desire allowed the coaches to develop an aggressive summer plan that included a stint in the Capitol Hoops Summer League.

The Bulldogs regrouped after Memorial Day for official summer practices and impressed Blumenthal with their energy in drills and retained knowledge of the team's system and intricacies.

Months later, they're doing so again, this time with a season-opening win in hand.

"I was very proud of our guys being able to . . . figure out their pressure and be able to figure out where we can make enough plays," Blumenthal said after Tuesday's victory over Gaithersburg. "We made them, so that was nice."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Murray, Spears spur Hoyas' all-around effort in win over Saints

GEORGETOWN 75, SIENA 68

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

Brandon Murray scored 20 points and Primo Spears added 18 on 7-for-11 shooting as the Georgetown men outlasted Siena, 75-68, at Capital One Arena on Wednesday.

Jay Heath tallied 16 points for the Hoyas (5-5), while Qudus Wahab scored 10 points and grabbed 12 rebounds en route to his second double-double this season. Four of five Georgetown starters scored at least 10 points.

The Hoyas took the lead for good in the second half behind a 12-0 burst that put them ahead 62-56.

Georgetown held an 18-2 advantage in fast-break points and repeatedly used its quickness to overwhelm the Saints.

Jackson Stormo led Siena (5-4) with 21 points.

• **VIRGINIA TECH 77, DAYTON 49:** Grant Basile had 23 points and 10 rebounds, Sean Pedulla added 19 points, and the Hokies overwhelmed the Flyers in Blacksburg, Va.

Virginia Tech (9-1) finished the first half on a 21-5 run and led 42-21 at the break to earn their fourth straight win. The last time the Hokies were 9-1 was in the 2018-19 season when they won 14 of their first 15 games.

DaRon Holmes had 13 points and 10 rebounds for Dayton (5-5).

• **WEST VIRGINIA 85, NAVY 64:** Tre Mitchell scored 19 points to power the Mountaineers (7-2) to an easy win over the Midshipmen in Morgantown, W.Va.

Freshman Austin Benigni scored 20 points on 8-for-10 shooting and Sean Yoder added 10 for Navy (5-4), which fell to 1-4 on the road.

• **PURDUE 85, HOFSTRA 66:** Zach Edey keeps putting up big numbers — and the fourth-ranked Boilermakers just keep winning.

The 7-foot-4 center had a double-double in the first half and finished with 23 points and 18 rebounds to help Purdue handle the Pride in West Lafayette, Ind.

This is the first time the Boilermakers (9-0) have won their opening nine games since 2015-16.

Amar'e Marshall led Hofstra (6-4) with 24 points.

• **CONNECTICUT 75, FLORIDA 54:** Adama Sanogo scored 17 points and Donovan Clingan added 16 as the fifth-ranked Huskies hammered the Gators in Gainesville, Fla., to improve to 10-0 for the first time since 2010-11.

Connecticut took control early, built a 15-point lead midway through the second half and never let Florida (6-4) back in it.

• **TENNESSEE 84, EASTERN KENTUCKY 49:** Tyreke Key scored 10 of the first 12 points of the second half and finished with 17, and the seventh-ranked Volunteers overcame a sluggish first half to throttle the Colonels in Knoxville, Tenn.

Tennessee (8-1) struggled in the first half but still built an 11-point lead over Eastern Kentucky (4-5) on the way to its seventh consecutive victory.

• **INDIANA 81, NEBRASKA 65:** Trey Galloway scored a career-high 20 points and Tamar Bates had 19 to propel the 14th-ranked Hoosiers past the Cornhuskers in Bloomington, Ind.

Trayce Jackson-Davis had the first triple-double of his career and third in Hoosiers history with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Indiana (8-1, 1-1 Big Ten) finished 11 for 25 from beyond the arc, and Nebraska (6-4, 0-1) made just 6 of 23.

No. 7 Hokies improve to 9-0

The last time Virginia Tech women's coach Kenny Brooks brought the Hokies to Chestnut Hill, Mass., they were 1-7 in the ACC and trying to stay out of the league cellar.

"Four years later, we're the seventh-ranked team in the country," he said after the Hokies beat host Boston College, 73-58. "But I think the sky is the limit for this group."

Reigning conference player of the year Elizabeth Kitley had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Cayla King scored 16 to lead Virginia Tech (9-0, 1-0 ACC) to its ninth straight win. The Hokies' No. 7 ranking is the best in program history.

Andrea Daley scored 15 points for Boston College (7-4, 0-1).

• **VIRGINIA 83, WILLIAM & MARY 54:** Mir McLean scored a game-high 22 points and grabbed a career-high 17 rebounds as the Cavaliers continued their best start since 1991 with a rout of the Tribe (4-4) in Williamsburg, Va.

Virginia (11-0) used a pair of 14-2 runs — one in the second quarter and another to open the fourth — to continue its sizzling start.

• **NORTH CAROLINA 64, UNC WILMINGTON 42:** Alyssa Ustby scored 16 points, and the eighth-ranked Tar Heels rebounded from their only loss of the season to upend the Seahawks in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Kennedy Todd-Williams scored 12 points and Deja Kelly added 10 for North Carolina (7-1), which played its first home game in three weeks.

• **IOWA 70, IOWA STATE 57:** Caitlin Clark scored 19 points after a slow start and Monika Czinano added 18 points to vault the No. 16 Hawkeyes to a victory over the No. 10 Cyclones in Iowa City.

Kate Martin added 13 points for Iowa (7-3). It has won six of the past seven games in the rivalry against Iowa State (6-2).



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Primo Spears attacks the basket for two of his 18 points at Capital One Arena. Georgetown (5-5) enjoyed an 18-2 edge in fast-break points.

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815 Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2131
2022 – ADM 1276

JOHN HERRON MORE
Name of Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Livezey H. More whose address is 1840 Plymouth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20012 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of John Herron More who died on September 29, 2022 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C., 20001, on or before 6/1/2023. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before 6/1/2023, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Livezey H. More
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Nicole D. Stevens
REGISTER OF WILLS

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2131
2022 ADM 000900

ROBERT SILANO
James. R.Hagerty
Kalbian Hagerty LLP
888 17th Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Nyke Vuong Waller (a/k/a Nyke Vuong) whose address is 2503 Assabet Ct., Crofton, MD 21114 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Robert A. Silano who died on June 17, 2022 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs who whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in his proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decendent's Will) shall be filed With the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street N.W., 3rd floor, Washington, D.C. 20001 on or before 6/1/2023. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before 6/1/2023, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Nyke Vuong Waller
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Nicole D. Stevens
REGISTER OF WILLS

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2131
2022 – ADM 000129

JELICA VUKOMANOVIC MARKOVIC
Name of Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, OF FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Zorica Avramovic whose address is 8444 Clover Leaf Drive, McLean Virginia 22102 was appointed personal representative of the estate of Jelica Vukomanovic Markovic, deceased, by the Circuit Court for Fairfax County, State of Virginia, on 11/10/2022. Service of process may be made upon Mirjana Stanisavljev Long & Foster, 2300 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 whose designation as District of Columbia agent has been filed with the Register of Willls, D.C. The decedent owned the following District of Columbia real property, 3901 Tunlaw Rd., apt #104, Washington, DC 20007. The decedent owned District of Columbia personal property. Claims against the decedent may be presented to the undersigned and filed with the Register of Wills for the District of Columbia, Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001 within 6 months from the date of first publication of this notice.

Zorica Avramovic
Personal REPRESENTATIVE
Nicole D. Stevens
REGISTER OF WILLS

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820 Official Notices

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER and SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE OF FINAL DETERMINATION
General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity, No. 20-SW-0000, NPDES Permit MDR00000.

The Maryland Department of the Environment is reissuing the State/National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity. The new permit will be No. 20-SW (NPDES No. MDR00). This permit replaces the 12-SW, which expired on December 31, 2018. The permit applies to variable volumes of stormwater discharges from various federal discharge categories of industrial facilities and several additional categories designated by the Department. The permit is applicable to over 1000 industrial facilities in the State of Maryland.

A public notice on the tentative determination to reissue the discharge permit was published by the Department's Water and Science Administration (WSA) in 2021 during the weeks of January 13 and January 22 in newspapers across the State of Maryland. The notice was published in the Maryland Register on January 15, 2021. The Department held a public hearing regarding the tentative determination on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Notice of the hearing was included in those publications. The public comment period concluded on April 19, 2021. After considering all comments received either in writing or through oral testimony during the comment period, the Department has made a final determination to issue the permit.

The final permit, a longer notice which includes a full description of the changes, responses to comments, and associated documentation may be found on the Department's website. To view and print the final permit and response documents, you may use this link https://mdewwp.page.link/ISW. Persons seeking to review the final permit and associated file may alternatively do so by contacting Mr. Hlavinka via email at paul.hlavinka@maryland.gov or Mr. Leach at casey.leach@maryland.gov to make an appointment. Copies of documents may be obtained at a cost of $0.36 per page.

Any person adversely affected by this final determination may file a petition for judicial review. Petitions for judicial review of a final determination or permit decision subject to judicial review must be filed in accordance with §1-605 of the Environment Article no later than within 30 days after publication of a notice of final determination, and must be filed in a circuit court in Maryland. Petitions for judicial review must conform to the applicable Maryland Rules of Civil Procedure. Failure to file a petition for judicial review will constitute a waiver of any right to a judicial review of this final determination.

Any questions regarding this final determination should be directed to Paul Hlavinka at Paul.Hlavinka@Maryland.gov or by telephone at 410-537-3323, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND CHARTER

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Constitution of Maryland, Article XI-E; the Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 4-301, et seq.; and the Charter of the Town of Somerset (the "Charter"), the Town Council of the Town of Somerset on December 5, 2022, duly adopted the following Charter amendments:

Charter Amendment Res. No. 3-22 to amend Section 83-21 of the Charter to add a definition of "resided".

Charter Amendment Res. No. 4-22 to amend Section 83-26 of the Charter to provide that if a resident if registered to vote with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, they shall be deemed registered for elections in the Town so long as the resident remains qualified to vote; to provide that voters may be removed from the list if not qualified to vote; and to provide that the removal of voters from the registration list shall comply with the applicable procedures set forth in State law.

Charter Amendment Res. No. 5-22 to amend Section 83-28 of the Charter to advance the nomination meeting from 4 weeks to 8 weeks prior to the election, and the nomination petition deadline from 21 days before the election to 10 days after the nomination meeting, to allow more time to prepare ballots and administer the election.

Charter Amendment Res. No. 6-22 to amend Section 83-35 of the Charter to allow uncontested elections to be canceled.

Charter Amendment Res. No. 7-22 to amend Section 83-30 of the Charter to allow elections by mail and other means, and to remove the requirement for incapacitation or absence for absentee voting.

These amendments shall become and be considered a part of the Charter of the Town of Somerset on January 24, 2023, unless on or before January 16, 2023, there shall be presented to the Town Council, or mailed to it by registered mail, a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) or more of the persons who are qualified to vote in municipal elections of the Town of Somerset, requesting any or all of the proposed amendments be submitted on referendum to the voters of the Town of Somerset. A complete copy of the Resolutions and Charter can be obtained from Matt Trollinger, Town Manager, at 4510 Cumberland Ave, Somerset, MD 20815.

WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS AUTHORITY (T/A EVENTS DC)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Directors of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority (t/a Events DC), in accordance with the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act of 1973, D.C. Official Code §1-207.42 (2006 Repl., 2011 Supp.), and the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act of 1968, as amended by the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, D.C. Official Code §2-576(5) (2011 Repl., 2011 Supp.), hereby gives notice that it has scheduled the following meetings for 2023: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14. Meetings will take place in the Jarvis Boardroom, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW, Washington DC 20001, beginning at 10 a.m. The Board's agenda includes reports from its Standing Committees. For additional information, please contact Sheila Miller at smiller@eventsdc.com.

820 Official Notices

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 173 feet on a proposed 199-foot monopole communications tower once constructed at the approx. vicinity of 225 33rd Street, SE, Washington, DC 20019 Lat: [38-52-56.41] Long: [-76-57-52.13]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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820 Official Notices

Dish Wireless proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 95 feet and 117 feet on a 90-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 1900 E. Street NW, Washington, District of Columbia, DC 20415. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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840 Trustees Sale - DC

Pardo & Drazin, LLC
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney
4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Suite 2
Washington, DC 20015
202-223-7900

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

5819 8th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20011
Lot 0036 in Square 3744

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") dated July 1, 2021 and recorded on July 23, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021099723 from Capitals Areas Properties LLC, as grantor, to John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis, as trustees, for the benefit of Commercial Lending, LLC, as beneficiary, securing that certain Commercial Deed of Trust Note dated July 1, 2021 in the principal amount of $400,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and following the mailing and recordation of a Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustee removing John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis as trustees and appointing Russell S. Drazin ("Substitute Trustee") as successor trustee, an Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure, and a Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit, at the request of the current noteholder, Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at the office of Harvey West Auctioneers, Inc., 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015, **(Please Note: In the event that the office building at 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW is closed, all scheduled Washington, DC sales will take place at the front entrance door of the Chevy Chase Pavilion)** on

DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 2:00 PM

ALL THAT LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON (if any) situated in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, known as 5819 8th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20011, and more fully described in the Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition, with no warranty of any kind, and subject to conditions, restrictions, agreements, liens, and encumbrances of record affecting the same – except those encumbrances of record that are extinguished by operation of District of Columbia law by virtue of the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

Purchaser will take title to the property subject to all real estate taxes, water and sewer charges, and any other municipal or utility charges senior in priority to the Deed of Trust, if any. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $50,000.00 by cashier's check will be required of purchaser at the time and place of sale. Purchaser shall settle within thirty (30) days of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY PURCHASER. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds at settlement. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money from the date of sale to the date of settlement at the applicable interest rate set forth in the debt instrument secured by the Deed of Trust. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all settlement costs.

The noteholder and its affiliates, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest.

In the event that purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default, the deposit shall be forfeited to Substitute Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale (including legal fees and costs, and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. Substitute Trustee may resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property. Defaulting purchaser shall be liable to Substitute Trustee for legal fees and costs incurred by Substitute Trustee in connection with such default.

If Substitute Trustee is unable to settle as set forth herein, purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

Substitute Trustee reserves the right, in Substitute Trustee's sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale. The successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to Substitute Trustee a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

Russell S. Drazin, Substitute Trustee

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, INC.
5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Ste 440
Washington, DC 20015
202-483-4567
www.hwestauctions.com

December 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 2022 12404435

820 Official Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notification is hereby given that PNC Bank National Association, 222 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE, 19899, New Castle County, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) on December 8, 2022, as specified in 12 C.F.R. Part 5 for permission to establish a domestic branch at 4400 Calvert Road College Park, MD 20740 Prince George's County.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller, Mail Stop 10e-2. 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219 within 30 days after the date of this publication. The public portion of the application is available on request. Information about this filing (including, for example, the closing date of the public comment period) may be found in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available on the OCC's website (https://www.occ.gov/).

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820 Official Notices

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Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller, Mail Stop 10e-2. 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219 within 30 days after the date of this publication. The public portion of the application is available on request. Information about this filing (including, for example, the closing date of the public comment period) may be found in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available on the OCC's website (https://www.occ.gov/).

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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

12421 SUSSEX LN.
BOWIE, MD 20715

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Sharon A. Kreitzer dated May 9, 2006 and recorded in Liber 25724, folio 472 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772 (Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St.), on

DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 11:05 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #07-0720003.

The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $36,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Sub. Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale.

If the Sub. Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited, to the Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without reselling the property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Trustees' file number 22-001943-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Substitute Trustees

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December 1, 8, 15, 2022 12404058

820 Official Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notification is hereby given that PNC Bank National Association, 222 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE, 19899, New Castle County, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) on December 8, 2022, as specified in 12 C.F.R. Part 5 for permission to establish a domestic branch at 5812 Kingstowne CTR Alexandria, VA 22315, Fairfax County.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller, Mail Stop 10e-2. 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219 within 30 days after the date of this publication. The public portion of the application is available on request. Information about this filing (including, for example, the closing date of the public comment period) may be found in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available on the OCC's website (https://www.occ.gov/)

NOTICE OF RECONVENED ANNUAL MEETING WATERS LANDING ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association that the Second Call of the Annual Meeting (Reconvened Meeting) is to be held:
DATE & TIME: Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtually by Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpf-GorTkuHtl-MAs8T71_OOYBBE_4dtF3V [us06web.zoom.us]
You must register in advance. Additional details and information can be found on the Association website, www.waterslanding.org [waterslanding.org].
For information call WLA at (301) 972-3681.

850 Montgomery County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

James T Bacon
Substitute Trustee
Plaintiff

Sung Ku Woo
Defendant

Civil No.: C-15-CV-22-002307

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit **Court of MONTGOMERY COUNTY** this 30th day of November, 2022, that the sale of the property,**12411 Fellowship Lane North Potoac, MD 20878** mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by James T Bacon, Substitute Trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **30th day of December, 2022**, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in Montgomery County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **30th day of December, 2022.**
The Report states the amount of Sale to be **$242,000.00.**

Karen A. Bushell
Clerk, Circuit Court for Montgomery County

December 8,15,22, 2022 12405840

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851 Prince Georges County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MARYLAND

David Williamson, et al,
Substitute Trustee,

Plaintiff,

v.

Sharon Pantoja, et al,

Defendant

Case No. CAEF22-12989

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this **1st. day of December, 2022,** that the sale of the property in this case, **3704 Chancelsors Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772** reported by David Williamson, Substitute Trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the **3rd. day of January , 2023**, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in Prince George's County, Maryland, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before the **3rd. day of January , 2023**

The report states the amount of sale to be **$642,142.00.**

Mahasin El Amin #793
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prince George's County, MD

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane LLC

December 8,15,,22 12405830

876 Loudoun County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

22772 ALLISON WAY, ASHBURN, VA 20148

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $130,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 1.000000% dated May 31, 2006, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the **County of Loudoun** as Deed Instrument Number 20060629-0056692, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Loudoun, on the courthouse steps in front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Loudoun located at 18 East Market Street, Leesburg Virginia on **February 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM,** the property with improvements to wit:

BRAMBLETON LAND BAY 2 200302210014700 PC F-437-6 PH.1 SEC.1 LOT 42

Tax Map No. 158-18-4705-000

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: **ALL CASH**. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 20-288154.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

December 8, 2022
January 5, 12, 2023 12406170

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856 Frederick County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
596 Lynnhaven Parkway, Suite 200
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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS

14035 Harrisville Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to LAWYERS TITLE REALTY SRVC. INC. , Trustee(s), dated January 4, 2008, and recorded among the Land Records of **FREDERICK COUNTY,** MARYLAND in Liber 6858, folio 0226, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

DECEMBER 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 201, SECTION II, IN A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "WATER OAK" AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 23, FOLIO 27 AT PLAT AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, CONTAINING 1.208 ACRES OF LAND MORE OR LESS.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 3.375% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest.

Trustee's File No. (74899)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
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Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
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December 1, 8, 15, 2022 12399528

876 Loudoun County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

644 BURNSIDE TERRACE, LEESBURG, VA 20175

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $341,920.00, with an annual interest rate of 5.125000% dated April 11, 2006, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the **County of Loudoun** as Deed Instrument Number 20060411-0032191, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Loudoun, on the courthouse steps in front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Loudoun located at 18 East Market Street, Leesburg Virginia on **January 12, 2023 at 11:00 AM**, the property with improvements to wit:

LOT 26, SECTION 9, TAVISTOCK FARMS

Tax Map No. 190-17-1981-000

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: **ALL CASH**. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 21-289634.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

November 14, 2022
December 8, 15, 2022 12402628

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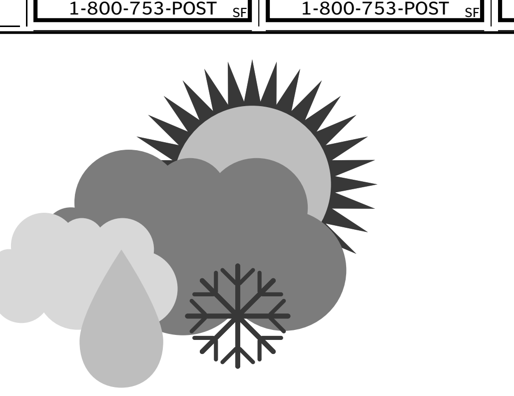
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HOW TO



ISTOCK

Tips for fixing pre-lit Christmas tree lights

BY JEANNE HUBER

Q: I have a pre-lit artificial Christmas tree, and it seems as if each year, fewer and fewer of the lights are working. The tree is only about five years old. I don't want to buy a new tree. Is there a way to troubleshoot this?

A: Yes, you can probably fix burned-out bulbs on a pre-lit tree if the bulbs are traditional incandescent mini-lights. There's also a good chance you can repair a tree with LED lights, as long as they aren't powered by batteries or run via a controller.

When incandescent mini-lights were introduced, they were typically wired in series, which means the current needed to flow through each bulb to complete the circuit. If one bulb failed, the whole string would go dark, because the failed bulb left a gap in the circuit. People could spend hours taking out each bulb and inserting a new one to pinpoint the problem.

But beginning around 1970, manufacturers began building a shunt feature into mini-light strings, said John DeCosmo, president of Ulta-Lit Tree Co. in Glenview, Ill. (888-858-2548, *ultalit.com*), which began selling pre-lit Christmas trees in 1996. When a bulb failed, power could continue to flow, leading to marketing messages promising that when one bulb burned out, the rest would keep burning.

Nevertheless, it's worth replacing burned-out bulbs when you notice them, because the lack of power through one bulb increases the amount flowing through the remaining bulbs. Four burned-out bulbs within a 50-light set decrease the life of the set by more than 60 percent, DeCosmo said.

But what do you do when a whole section of lights stays dark? About half the time, a broken shunt is the problem, DeCosmo said. This is where a tool that his company sells, the LightKeeper Pro ($28.99 at Ace Hardware), can help. Instead of trying a fresh bulb in each socket until you find the place where it fixes the problem, you can repair the shunt with a few clicks of the tool's trigger.

To use the tool, plug in the lights and remove one bulb in the area that stays dark. Connect the tool to that socket via a port on the tool, as if you were inserting a new bulb. Then press the tool's trigger up to 30 times, until the string relights. Each press of the trigger sends a pulse of electricity through the wires, eventually resulting in a miniature weld that bridges the broken connection. Remove the tool and reinsert the bulb you took out. Unless that bulb had the broken link, it will relight, along with all but the one that had the broken shunt. You probably won't even notice that one dark bulb once the rest light up.

If a whole section remains dark, there is probably a break in the circuit too wide to cure with a mini-weld. Perhaps a bulb is missing or is not seated properly. A voltage detector or the LightKeeper tool's built-in detector can help you quickly determine where this type of problem is. Plug in the tree, and begin testing at the bulb closest to the plug. If you're using the LightKeeper, hold down a button on the top of the tool and touch its tip to the bulb. If you hear a continuous beep, it means power is getting to that point on the light string. You can then check each bulb or move 10 bulbs ahead until you get no beeps, then backtrack to find the problem. Add a bulb if one is missing, or remove and reinsert the one that's there. If it stays dark, replace it.

Perhaps you've read that a blown fuse could be why bulbs stop working. Although it's true that you can replace the fuse (it's usually built into the back of the plug on a light string), it's unlikely to explain why lights on a pre-lit tree aren't working, DeCosmo said, so he doesn't recommend replacing the fuse as a first step. A fuse blows when a circuit is overloaded. Tree manufacturers are generally very careful to keep the number of lights below what the fuse can handle, usually three amps, so when a fuse blows, it's typically because someone plugged other lights into a pre-lit tree or linked too many light strings together to decorate another area.

What should you do if you have burned-out bulbs on a pre-lit tree with LED bulbs? LEDs are far less fragile and have a longer life span than incandescent bulbs, so these trees are less likely to have problems. Even long-lasting LEDs will eventually stop working, though.

A different Ulta-Lit tool, the LED Keeper ($31.99 at Ace Hardware), can help you fix these. To use it, plug in the tree and mark where the lights are off. Then unplug the tree from the outlet and instead plug the tree lights into the tool. A YouTube video titled "NEW LED Keeper Instructional Video" shows how to test sections of the circuit until you locate the problem LED. You can then replace the bad LED if you have a matching one. If you don't, or if the LEDs aren't replaceable, the video shows how to replace the bad LED with one of the two "pods" included with the tool. (If you need more pods, a package of four is $14.99 on Amazon.)

Overall, the LED Keeper has about a four-star rating on Amazon. Unsatisfied customers complain that the wires on their strings are too skinny for the tool to work. DeCosmo said the skinny wiring is found on low-voltage sets that run on batteries or through a controller to create special effects. The tool can't help with these light strings or with rope lights, nor will it work on incandescent light strings.

If the bulbs on your pre-lit tree are traditional incandescent mini-lights, you can probably fix them. If they're LED lights, there's also a good chance you can fix them. In both cases, you just need the right tool.

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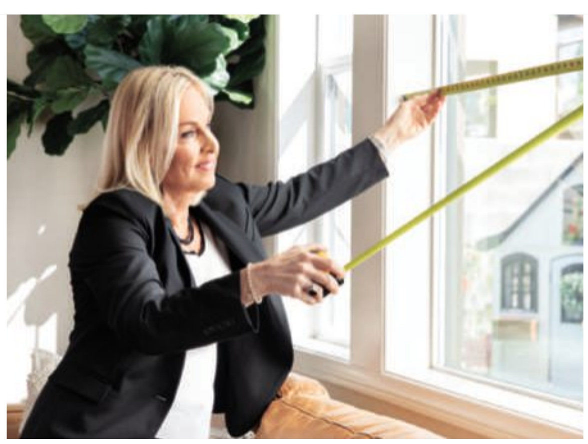
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JENS KALAENE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caring for a holiday classic

You can keep the plant looking healthy through Christmas and beyond with these tips

BY NEVIN MARTELL

Nursery worker Helene Tinneberg examines a poinsettia last month in Brandenburg, Germany. The plant was introduced into the United States from Mexico in the early 1800s by Joel Roberts Poinsett.

Forget Christmas trees and mistletoe. There's one plant that rules the holiday season above all others: the Santa-red poinsettia. Before going further, though, let's clear up the widespread misconception that its brightly colored points are flowers. Nope, they're bracts (leaves). However, if you look closely, there are tiny, petal-less yellow flowers known as cyathia hiding among the attention-grabbing foliage.

The festively hued plants were introduced to the United States from Mexico in the early 19th century by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first ambassador to Mexico and a passionate amateur botanist, who brought home several samples of what is known south of the border as flor de Nochebuena (Christmas Eve flower). They became known as poinsettias in the United States in honor of their importer. Initially, the plants weren't very hardy and displayed their trademark red for only a short while. "But in the 1960s, hybridizers managed to give it more strength and extended periods of coloration," says Bobby Lewis, vice president of the Great Big Greenhouse & Meadows Farms Nurseries, headquartered in Chantilly, Va. "That's when its popularity really took off."

These days, there are more than 100 cultivars of poinsettias on the market — ranging from whites and yellows to purples and pinks — with colorful new offerings added every year. According to the National FFA Organization, it is the No. 1-selling potted plant in the United States, with roughly 35 million sold every year. And almost all are sold in roughly six weeks, between mid-November and Christmas.

Here are six points from a trio of poinsettia experts on how to keep them vibrant throughout the holiday season and beyond.

1. Protect the plant from the cold

Because poinsettias are from a hot environment, they don't handle cold weather well. Unfortunately, most poinsettias aren't usually bundled up in protective wrapping, so you can kill a plant before you even get a chance to enjoy it. "I've seen people just throw them into the car and then keep shopping even though

THE WASHINGTON POST · THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

it's 25 degrees out," says Jerry Goodspeed, director of the Utah State University Botanical Center, who advises wrapping the plant in newspaper and taking it home immediately, so it doesn't have a chance to freeze.

2. Choose the right spot

Find a window that gets at least four to six hours of strong sunlight a day, and place the plant about six feet away from it, says Lewis. In addition, keep it away from drafty spots, such as near the front door, by fireplaces or in hallways. It's fine to park it near a radiator or heat vent, though; poinsettias love a warm climate.

3. Water wisely

To determine whether it's time to water your poinsettia, stick a finger in the dirt, says Goodspeed. If you detect any moisture or coolness, leave it alone. You will know it's time to water if the soil is completely dry or if the leaves are starting to wilt, yellow or fall off. Expect to hydrate your plant every seven to 10 days, but don't simply pour on the water. Poinsettias are often sold in pots wrapped in metallic foil to up their festive vibes, but this extra layer traps water, which can lead to root rot and kill the plant. Goodspeed suggests removing the foil, setting the potted plant in a sink or tub, spraying it until water drips out the bottom, then letting it rest for half an hour or longer before putting the foil back on and returning the plant to its sunny spot. If you live in a drier, high-heat home, consider misting the plant regularly as well.

4. Skip the fertilizer

If you plan on keeping your poinsettia only for the holiday season, don't bother feeding it. "Normally, it will have been fertilized in the greenhouse where it was grown," says Goodspeed. "That will be more than enough."

5. Poinsettias can irritate skin — and stomachs

Poinsettias contain a sticky white sap that can cause skin irritation. Julie Weisenhorn, extension horticulture educator at the University of Minnesota, recommends always wearing gloves and cleaning your pruning shears after you trim your plant. Don't let your pets (or children, for that matter) nibble on the bracts, as it may cause mild gastrointestinal stress. There's no need to rush to the emergency room, though, because poinsettias aren't poisonous. (That's just another popular misconception.)

6. How to make poinsettias last beyond the holidays

Most people toss out or compost their poinsettia after Christmas, but you can keep it around for holiday seasons to come — if you're willing to put in a little work. Early in the new year, Weisenhorn suggests feeding it an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer diluted to half the strength recommended on the fertilizer's container. Around Memorial Day, trim the plant, transplant it to a slightly larger container with good drainage and move it outdoors for the summer. About the time of the autumnal equinox, bring it inside to a space that receives no light, such as a closet or windowless basement room. You must keep it in the dark for 16 hours a day, then bring it into the light for the remaining eight hours, watering and fertilizing it regularly the entire time, until Thanksgiving, when the bracts will change colors again.



ISTOCK



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If you're tired of the ubiquitous red poinsettias, there are plenty of other options worth considering. Here are a few options:

- Ice Crystal — Lush pale pink with a whitish center.
- Luv U Pink — Hot pink that really pops.
- Plum Pudding — Rich purple recalling the stone fruit.
- Mars White — Radiant pure white or creamy butter-toned.
- Viking Cinnamon — Lemony yellow centers give way to rosy pink edges.
- Autumn Leaves — A bouquet of peaches, pinks and yellows.



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No guest bedroom? You can still host company comfortably.

BY CHRISTINA STURDIVANT SANI



CHLOE MEISTER/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

While hosting a friend or family member at your home can make for memorable moments, it can also be nerve-racking, for both you and your company, if you don't have a guest room. No one likes feeling as if they're intruding on your space, or like they're a burden.

Fortunately, there are several ways you can make a guest feel comfortable, even if you don't have a dedicated space for them to sleep. The key, according to home organizing experts, is preparing for what they may need so they don't have to ask for much. These tips will put your guest at ease and create a more seamless experience for everyone.

1. Find a way to create a separate space

Consider giving up your bedroom or a family member's room to allow your guest to have a place where they can retreat and close the door. You can sleep in a common area, or family members can double up in a room, suggests Robyn Reynolds, owner of Los Angeles-based Organize2Harmonize and president of the Board of Certification for Professional Organizers.

If you can't offer your bedroom, try enclosing a common space for your guest, especially if people have to pass through it to reach another room. Reynolds recommends running a cord or rod between opposite walls and hanging a curtain on it to cordon off your sofa and give your guest privacy. You can also purchase a free-standing divider that fans out, which is easier to put away when your guest leaves, says Naeemah Ford Goldson, owner of Atlanta-based Restore Order Professional Organizing and co-founder of the National Association of Black Professional Organizers.

And add some fluffy pillows and clean, cozy blankets or throws to make the sofa more comfortable for sleeping.

2. Consider their background

Take note of your guests' cultural background and make them feel welcome by acknowledging any related needs and preferences. "They may want to do Zoom church in their room before they come out in the morning, or they may not eat at the same time or eat the same foods that you eat," says Lyndsey Dianne, blogger and owner of DianneDecor.com. "An American breakfast is very different from what you might eat if you're Nigerian, so know what you're offering people."

3. Put together a welcome basket

Stock up on water bottles, your guest's favorite snacks, a phone charger, a scented candle, comfy socks, earplugs and a sleep mask. "Anything that would make it feel a bit more homey for that person," says Reynolds. "And it could literally be in some sort of basket or container — whatever it is that you may have around the house."

4. Prepare toiletries and bedding

Gather toiletry items such as a towel, washcloth, soap, toothpaste, lotion and shampoo. "I would put them out even if they're not going to use them so that you don't have to quiz them on a checklist of items that they've brought or haven't brought," says Dianne. This also alleviates the need for guests to ask for something they forgot.

If possible, make your guest's bed before they arrive so they won't have to wait for you to decide that the end of the day has come. "Now you're setting up the bedding, and they're standing there watching you put fitted sheets on. It's uncomfortable," Dianne says. Also, provide extra blankets in case they get cold in the middle of the night, Goldson says.

5. Make space for their clothes

Give guests somewhere to put their clothes so they're not living out of their suitcase, whether it's a few hangers in your bedroom closet or some space in a dresser drawer. No room to spare? Be resourceful. "You may have a plastic bin that they could put their clothes in that would sit somewhere in the room" where they're staying, says Reynolds.

Depending on the weather, you should also make space for outerwear so they aren't "hanging on to their coat or bringing it back to the bedroom" every time they enter the house, says Dianne.

6. Give them a house tour

When your guest arrives, take time to show them around. It doesn't have to be every nook and cranny of the house, but at least cover the spots where they'll spend the most time, including the sleeping area, bathroom and kitchen.

Post your WiFi information on a card or sticky note, Dianne says, so guests can find it easily and when it's convenient, "so they're not walking in the house and you're like, 'Okay, here's the WiFi information,' and they haven't even put their bags down yet." Also provide a power strip with adequate free outlets for them to charge multiple items.

After the tour, "give them some privacy to unwind and get settled," Dianne adds.

7. Feed them

If your guest is arriving late in the evening, set aside food for them. "I would preorder takeout so that when they get back from the airport or wherever, it's there and they don't have to be like, 'Hey, can we stop at McDonald's on the way home?' Let them know, 'I ordered a bunch of stuff and you're welcome to it,'" says Dianne.

Take it a step further by stocking your kitchen with food and drinks they can consume throughout their stay. "If they're a Pepsi drinker but you're a Coke person, have a couple cans of Pepsis to make them happy. If they're vegetarian, have some options there so they have something to snack on — even if they're not going to make full meals," says Reynolds.

Dianne suggests having at least six water bottles in the fridge. That way, she says, guests are more likely to feel comfortable taking one, because they won't be concerned about leaving you without enough. "If there's plenty, I don't have that awkward, uncomfortable feeling about taking something," she adds.

And leave disposable plates, cups and cutlery on the counter. "If somebody wants to get something to eat, they can easily do that and not feel like, 'Oh, well I have to wash these dishes or put them in the dishwasher,'" says Dianne.

8. Respect their time

Your guest may have had a long journey or prefer to go to bed earlier than you do. So if you're a night owl, consider shutting things down at a more reasonable hour "so they have time to unwind and they don't feel like they have to stay up because the host is staying up when they really want to go to sleep," says Goldson.

Have the same consideration in the morning. "I never wake anybody up, ever," says Dianne. "You don't know how they slept the night before. And if they're out of town, odds are they either drove a ways, took a bus or took a flight — and these days, that can be a lot."

Christina Sturdivant Sani is a freelance writer in Northern Virginia.

Renovate your kitchen on a budget, from $1,000 to $15,000

BY MARISSA HERMANSON

When my husband and I bought our house in Richmond, we knew we'd need to renovate the kitchen. The laminate countertops, off-white cabinets, 1990s appliances and dim lighting made the space feel dark and dirty. I envisioned gutting it and adding square footage. Then I got a harsh dose of reality from a contractor. My plan, he said, would cost $88,000 and take two months.

Okay, so we'd live with the layout. After some more research, I opted to have the cabinets professionally spray-painted for $3,375. We got new lighting, leathered-granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances, but kept the existing backsplash. When we finished the job last summer, the total tab was about $15,000. While it's not the kitchen I originally dreamed of, it's a space that makes me smile.

Like a lot of homeowners, I'd heard that you should spend 10 percent of your home's value on your kitchen renovation (which, by the way, would've still been much less than that initial $88,000 quote) — but I learned that I didn't really need to, and maybe you don't, either. Even with a budget as small as $1,000, home-design experts say you can make a significant difference in your kitchen. Here's how.



AMANDA VERNACI



MATHEWS AND CO.

ABOVE: Amanda Vernaci renovated her kitchen by laying floors, installing new fixtures, adding woodwork to the island and revamping the backsplash. LEFT: Diana Mathews gave her kitchen walls a fresh coat of paint, hung new art and painted an antique table.

1. $1,000: Paint and add new accessories

Inexpensive cosmetic updates can go a long way. For instance, I scored a sleek faucet on clearance at Lowe's for $70 and new knobs and pulls for $265 at Build.com — all noticeable upgrades. But new paint will probably give you the biggest bang for your buck.

"You can literally paint every square inch and make it feel different," says Amanda Vernaci, the Clarkston, Mich., DIY blogger behind Come Stay Awhile. For those oak cabinets that were so popular in the '90s, Vernaci recommends applying a coat of wood filler with a putty knife to achieve a smooth surface, then sanding and priming before rolling or spraying on two coats of paint (sanding lightly between them). Start to finish, Vernaci estimates the job will take about two weeks. "Painting your cabinets takes a ton of prep work, but it can save you a lot of money to do it yourself."

Vernaci has also transformed dated tile with little more than a paintbrush. She used white epoxy tile paint on a backsplash in her old house, a technique that works for tile floors, too.

Richmond interior designer Diana Mathews, of Mathews & Co. Studio, gave her own kitchen a facelift with a coat of Sherwin-Williams Studio Clay on the walls, along with new furniture and artwork. She painted a $600 antique worktable on casters and now uses it as a kitchen island, and snagged a pair of floor-sample bar stools from Pottery Barn for less than $100. "The island was definitely a functional game-changer, adding both surface area as well as a place to sit," she says.

2. $5,000: Hire a pro to paint or refinish your cabinets

If you can spend a bit more, it's worth hiring professionals to give your cabinets a facelift. The results will almost certainly hold up better (and look nicer) than a DIY job.

Some companies give you the option of brush-painting wood cabinets or — for a little more money — spray-painting them. The painters who did my cabinets quoted me $2,250 for brushing with latex versus $3,375 for spraying with lacquer, which will withstand more wear and tear.

The painter removed hardware; degreased, sanded and cleaned the exterior of our cabinets; wrapped the entire room in plastic; then sprayed the cabinets with two coats each of oil primer and lacquer. Within a week, they were transformed.

Cabinet refinishing is a step up from painting and typically costs about twice as much. The process involves spraying on a durable varnish, rather than paint. "That finish would come on brand-new cabinets. It's a factory finish," explains Pete Simonello, owner of the Cabinet Restoration Co. in Manchester, Md. "And it can be matched to any paint color."

Doors and drawer fronts are removed and sprayed off-site; cabinet boxes are sprayed on-site. For a small kitchen, Simonello estimates refinishing would cost around $5,000 (by comparison, he estimates that a paint job in a similar kitchen would run about $2,000). Refinishing, he says, "is a good fit for someone staying put for another 15 years."

3. $10,000: Get new countertops, floors and backsplash

According to Marine Sargsyan, an economist at Houzz, about 90 percent of renovating homeowners surveyed in the site's Kitchen Trends Study eventually upgraded their countertops. Engineered quartz (typically $55 and up per square foot) and granite ($40-plus per square foot) are top choices, as is butcher block (as little as $30 per square foot).

Though granite might conjure images of the builder-grade stuff from the '90s, it actually comes in a number of on-trend styles. Nowadays it can feature veining (similar to marble, but lower maintenance), or it can be leathered, a process that results in a more textured, matte finish.

Quartz, although pricier, is sealed during the manufacturing process, adding to its durability.

One tip for homeowners looking to save, according to Halil Bulut, co-owner of Tri-State Surfaces in Temple, Md.: Tear out the old countertops yourself, as most companies charge extra for demo and haul-away.

The backsplash is another opportunity to add personality to your kitchen. There are endless tile options, many of which are

SEE KITCHEN ON 9

KITCHEN FROM 8

inexpensive (basic subway tile, for instance, costs as little as 15 cents a piece at big-box stores). Professional installation costs an average of $1,000, according to Angi.

If outdated tile or vinyl flooring is bringing down your space, consider swapping it for luxury vinyl planks (also called LVP), an affordable, durable upgrade that's relatively easy to install for an ambitious DIYer. The material comes in an array of faux wood or stone finishes. On average, it costs $3.45 per square foot — or about $4.50 less than real hardwood at big-box stores.

"The trickiest part is cutting around door jambs and angles, but once you get going, you get the hang of it pretty quickly," says Vernaci, about installing it. "This type of flooring also floats, so it isn't glued or nailed down at all."

4. $15,000 and up: Reface your cabinets and/or get new appliances

If you don't like the style of your cabinet doors — but your cabinetry is in good overall condition and you can live with the layout — refacing might be your best bet.



AMANDA VERNACI



MATHEWS AND CO.

Simonello says his company's average cabinet-refacing job costs around $15,000. It involves replacing the drawer and door fronts and updating hardware to soft hinges and drawer slides, and it can also include storage upgrades such as installing lazy Susans and pullout trash systems. "Refacing, which is the next step up from refinishing, is what I call a full facelift without replacing the cabinets," says Simonello.

New appliances are another big-ticket item. On average, homeowners spend $10,875 to replace a full suite (the fridge, range, microwave oven and dishwasher), according to HomeAdvisor. One tip that Mathews, the Richmond interior designer, offers renovators on a budget: Shop scratch-and-dent sales at appliance stores, or ask if floor models are for sale.

Marissa Hermanson is a writer in Richmond.

FROM LEFT: Vernaci's kitchen before she remade it. She did much of the work herself, including on the backsplash, but had the cabinets painted professionally. Mathews spent less than $1,000 upgrading her kitchen, seen here pre-facelift.



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HOME FRONT

In a guest bedroom, it's the little touches that make a stay lovely



John Robshaw

John Robshaw, home and textiles designer and founder of John Robshaw Textiles, joined staff writer Jura Koncius last week for our Home Front online chat. Here is an edited excerpt.



RACHEL ROBSHAW

A guest room by designer Stiles Colwill using John Robshaw's textiles. The blue-and-white room is swirling with visual interest, but the blue color is calming.

Q: What is your guest room essentials list?
A: For my guest bedroom in the country, I always have a jug of water and a cup by the beds. My 3-year-old daughter, who wakes up very early, is just down the hall, so I also have a noise machine in the guest bedroom. I also like to place stacks of books in a guest room. If you know what your guest likes to read, like a Georges Simenon detective novel, you could even put some books out for them.

Q: I'm setting up my first guest room and thinking of acquiring a queen bed, dresser and nightstand. Is that all the stuff that should be in there?
A: You need two nightstands on either side of the bed, plus lamps for both nightstands. I like some sort of bench at the end of the bed so people have a place to toss things, and possibly a suitcase rack.

Q: If you are just starting out and want to build a beautiful and comfortable bed either for yourself or for your guest bed, how do you begin and what are the key elements to get?
A: For a guest room, I always like a quilt with Euro sham pillows, which are larger than standard pillow shams at 26-by-26 inches, so guests can be comfy when reading. If you have the room, king Euros at the back of the bed make a bold statement.

Q: During the holidays, someone always has to sleep in the living room. There is some inherent discomfort in this situation. Is there anything I can do to make it seem homier and more welcoming at night while still being able to quickly clean up so it can return to public use during the day?
A: A screen is a perfect room divider and can offer some privacy to your sofa-bound guest. We make ones in fun shapes and prints.

Q: What are some special details I could add to my guest room to make it special?
A: I always joke with my mother when I come home that I expect flowers, but really it is amazing to arrive to a room with flowers and plants. I also like a bowl of snacks and a few drinks in the room if you have space. One friend has a mini-kitchen near her guest room, so if you are up early you can make your own coffee or tea.

Q: I love the catalogue look of a well-made bed, with matching or coordinating sheets, linens, blankets, coverlets, comforters and pillows. But often these displays aren't functional. How does one strike a balance between comfort and looks?
A: I know the catalogue bed is a lot of work! I usually have benches or a settee near the bed for stacking blankets and pillows, or if you have a big basket, you can toss pillows into it.

Q: We use our spare room as an office, but it'll be a guest room this holiday. We have a pretty comfortable futon but don't want to move our office furniture out for only a week or so. We will be working in the living room, but do you think anyone will mind?
A: I think of Japan and how they use every inch of space and no one seems to mind stacking everything up and using lots of shelving units. If you can cover up the work station, maybe with an old textile or screen, it might make the guest feel a bit more at home. Look at some Japanese interiors with very simple paper lights on the floor by the bed, like a Noguchi lamp, and massive white duvets and sheets for inspiration.

Q: My mother-in-law likes to complain about our guest room not having blackout curtains, but we don't like how they look and prefer a lighter cotton. Where do you fall on shades vs. curtains?
A: In New York, we have shades and curtains and blackout blinds. I do think it's good to have blackout shades; they are pretty small when they are up and can be hidden behind the shades. It's your mother-in-law — you have to keep her happy!

Q: What should you do to the guest room when leaving a host's home?
A: I always break down the bed, fold the sheets, unstuff the duvet and leave the sheets by the washing machine. Even if your host has help, it shows you are a thoughtful guest. I never leave the room a mess. I am sure my mother drilled this into me.

Q: Should guests offer to do dishes after dinner? What if the host waves you off?
A: I always think guests should help in some way. If the host does not want you to wash dishes, then make sure you clear the table and maybe refill some wine glasses.

Q: What are your ideas for host/hostess gifts? I'm sick of candles and wine.
A: A set of napkins, napkin rings or coasters are always needed.

Q: The last time I redid our guest room was when all-white everything was super popular, so I have a white duvet and various shades of cream in there mostly. I want to redo it all and add a bit more color, but not too crazy. Which pieces should I start with?
A: I would start with a fun printed duvet and Euro sham pillowcases in the same print. You will be surprised how it spices up the room and shows a lot more personality than a simple white bedroom.

Q: What is the most beautiful guest room you have ever stayed in?
A: I used to stay with an old friend who knew me so well and who also had the most amazing eye. The room had everything you would need in a guest room: fresh flowers, some books she knew I would enjoy, a small pad by the bed to jot notes and a porch that looked out at the ocean. The room was perfect not just because of the design, but also the thought and care that she put into every aspect of making her guest comfortable. That made it such a lovely place to stay.

Q: How should you wash a hand-stitched quilt?
A: Our hand-stitched quilts are machine-washable. Wash them on cold, delicate and tumble-dry low. Do not bleach or iron.

Q: Are there any colors that aren't good for bedding? I noticed you have lots of blue designs.
A: Blue is our most popular bedding color, but it's really up to you and what makes you happy. I would not rule out any color.

Q: How do you launder your sheets?
A: I prefer to wash them in cold water. I don't use dryer sheets, but I'm very basic when washing. Dryers sort of scare me, so I prefer to line-dry everything.

Q: Are you finding that many people aren't using top sheets now if they have duvets?
A: I always like to use top sheets, but I hear on the West Coast they don't use them? I think it's easier to wash sheets than unstuff and wash a duvet.

Q: How can I wash bedding made of Indian cotton?
A: For our products, I always recommend machine-washing them. But depending on where some Indian cottons are coming from, they may bleed when washed. You might wash them separately from your other items.

Q: What are your preferred bedding materials for each season? I usually do flannel sheets in the winter and want to get some linen for summer.
A: I prefer percale all year as I am a hot sleeper and flannel sheets seem heavy to me. I do like linen for the summer, though. Sometimes a linen/cotton blend can feel softer than 100 percent linen sheets.

localliving@washpost.com

Also at washingtonpost.com
Read the rest of this transcript and submit questions to the next chat, Thursday at 11 a.m., at *live.washingtonpost.com*.

The former home of 12 Swedish ambassadors

BY SOPHIA SOLANO



COMPASS REALTY

The estate was once the house of David Lawrence, owner, editor and publisher of U.S. News & World Report. It has terra cotta roofing.

This 11,200-square-foot house, owned by the Swedish government and once the home of a well-known Washington publisher, sits on nearly seven acres, one of the largest parcels now on the market in Washington.

The house was built in 1925 for David Lawrence, owner, editor and publisher of U.S. News & World Report. Lawrence, a student of Woodrow Wilson's at Princeton University, became a Washington correspondent for the New York Evening Post in 1916, and he reported from Washington for the Evening Post and other news organizations for more than 60 years and during 11 presidencies.

Lawrence founded the United States Daily in 1926 and the World Report about 20 years later. He merged the two magazines in 1948 to create the weekly U.S. News & World Report, which reached a circulation of nearly 2 million before his death in 1973. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Richard M. Nixon in 1970.

Lawrence is also known for donating land to Fairfax County, Va., for Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly.

The Swedish government purchased the property — in Northwest Washington's American University Park neighborhood — in the 1950s. It has been home to 12 Swedish ambassadors, including Karin Olofsdotter, who lived there from 2017 to 2019. She relocated the residence to the Swedish Embassy in Georgetown to be nearer downtown Washington and to have the added interior space needed to host larger events.

Real estate agent Cara Pearlman said that the house needs an estimated $1.5 million in renovations but that "someone with a smaller budget could still make it shine."

During her two-year residence at the property, Olofsdotter hosted several fundraisers and events. Queen Silvia of Sweden, former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright and several American Nobel laureates were among the notable guests. Olofsdotter remembers visitors gathering in the garden in 2018 to watch Sweden play Germany in the World Cup on an outdoor screen.

At nearly seven acres, the property could be subdivided for detached houses or townhouses, according to Pearlman. Behind the garden, the land slopes down to a line of foliage.

"You have a fantastic view of the forest, and there's actually wildlife in there," Olofsdotter said. "Foxes in the spring, and lots of birds, cardinals and so on. It's a really wonderful, wonderful, wonderful garden."

The grounds have a lighted tennis court and a greenhouse. The driveway has two entrances, both gated, and a there is a circular section in front of the house that connects to a large parking lot and an attached garage.

The Mediterranean-style villa, with terra cotta roofing, has three floors, all with hardwood floors and oversize windows. Much of the main level is used primarily for entertaining: a commercial-grade kitchen, a formal library, a ballroom and paved terraces outside, including one covered by an awning. But there is also a wing for support staff, a family room, a den and a study.

The second story (upper level) has six bedrooms, each with an en suite bathroom. It also has a second kitchen, a recreation room, a sunroom and a rooftop deck. The primary bedroom has a walk-in closet and opens to a balcony. This level overlooks the main level foyer.

The lower level has ample space for storage, a media room and an exercise room.

"It is a fantastic location," Olofsdotter said, "so I'm really curious to find out who buys it and what they will do with it."

$19,500,000

3900 Nebraska Ave N.W.

Bedrooms/bathrooms: 7/9

Approximate square-footage: 11,212

Lot size: 6.7 acres

Features: This 1925 house was built for the founder of U.S. News & World Report and has been owned by the Swedish government since the 1950s. The current Swedish ambassador to the United States lived here from 2017 to 2019. It is one of the largest properties currently for sale in the area. The house has terracotta roofing, a dark oak library and a ballroom. The grounds have a greenhouse, a tennis court and a garden.

Listing agent: Cara Pearlman and Timothy-Jay Morton, Compass



Archways in hallways give a stately feel to the residence, currently owned by the Swedish government.

Adams Morgan condo with eco-friendly appeal

1706 Euclid

Address: 1706 Euclid St. NW, Washington D.C.

Builder: Brickstone Development LLC

Type of home: Condominium

Number of units: 6 (1 available, 5 under contract)

Prices: $895,000

Bedrooms: 2

Bathrooms: 2

Square-footage: 1,130

Condo fees: $400 a month

Property website: *bit.ly/bowiecondo*

Sales: Lou Cardenas (lcardenas@ttrsir.com)



PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN C TANKERSLEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Features

The six-condo Bowie is the first net-zero-energy residential project in Washington, according to developer Marc Bassin. As part of the rowhouse's renovation, changes were made to promote energy efficiency and other traits favorable to the environment. The project's eco-friendliness is especially important to Bassin, a broker at Jones Lang LaSalle and an advocate of environmental protection for whom real estate development is a side gig.

Rooftop solar panels provide electricity to the building, and any surplus power generated can yield credits that lower electricity bills. The building also has energy-efficient windows and insulated doors. Appliances are electric and include energy-saving induction cooktops.

The area in front of the building meets Green Area Ratio (GAR) standards for landscaping and site design to reduce storm water runoff and make the city air cleaner and cooler. The building will have native plants, vegetation-covered "green walls" and pervious pavers to capture and treat rainwater. There is a small grassy area at the back of the building.

Each unit has custom light fixtures and white oak floors. There are quartz countertops, cabinets by Cuisine Ideale and ceramic tile throughout kitchens and bathrooms. All units have Bosch kitchen appliances and washer/dryers.

Unit 4 is the only one that is still available. The builder, Brickstone Development, has staged it as a furnished model home. It has two bedrooms on one level and a rooftop terrace facing Euclid Street.

The primary bedroom suite, at the back of Unit 4, has south-facing windows, a walk-in closet and an en suite bathroom. The other bedroom has a Juliet balcony and is near a hall bathroom.

Kitchens

The kitchen in Unit 4 has a three-door refrigerator, a dishwasher, an oven with a range, and a microwave. There is a ProFlo faucet, and the countertops on the island and elsewhere are white quartz. Upper cabinets have white slab fronts. Base cabinets have black slab fronts.

Bathrooms

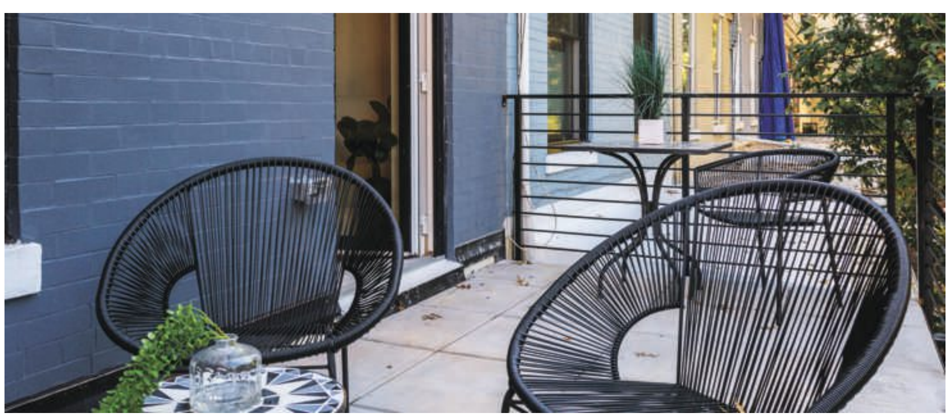
The en suite bathroom in Unit 4 includes frameless shower glass and a black shower niche. The bathroom floor is black-and-white mosaic tile.

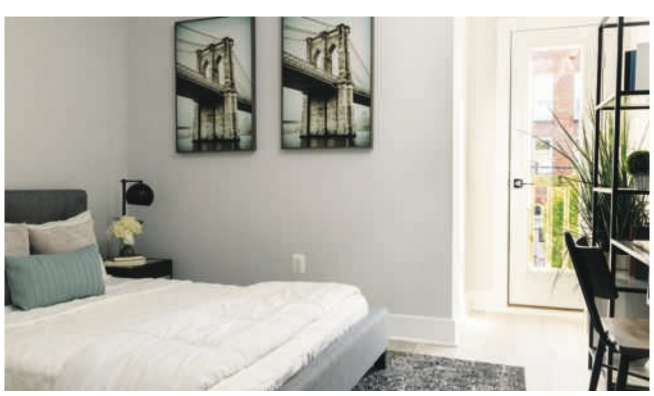
The hall bathroom has a floating vanity and a shower-tub combo with a black-and white tile surround. The floor is black-and-white mosaic tile.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The living room and kitchen in Unit 4. The hall bathroom has a floating vanity and a shower-tub combo with black-and-white tile. Meridian Hill Park is a block away.





ABOVE: Unit 4 has a rooftop terrace that faces Euclid Street. Solar panels and energy-saving appliances and construction are expected to lower residents' electricity bills and their carbon footprint. LEFT: The second bedroom has a Juliet balcony and is near the hall bath.

Neighborhood

Adams Morgan

Shops and restaurants

Harris Teeter and Safeway are a block away. The neighborhood has restaurants, coffee shops, yoga studios and gyms.

Parks

Meridian Hill is a block away. The National Zoo and Rock Creek Park are a 15-minute walk.

Schools

Elementary: Marie Reed
Middle: Columbia Heights Education Campus
High: Cardozo

Transit

It's a 10-minute walk to the Columbia Heights Metro station, and a 15-minute walk to the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan station. The neighborhood is served by D.C. Circulator and Metrobus routes.

What sets it apart

Solar panels and energy-saving appliances and construction are expected to lower residents' electricity bills and their carbon footprint. Eco-friendly landscaping, plant-covered walls and other "green" measures are expected to reduce water and air pollution. The Bowie is in the vibrant Adams Morgan neighborhood, with its shops, parks, restaurants, nightlife and public transportation.

— Benjamin C Tankersley



MARÍA ALCONADA BROOKS/THE WASHINGTON POST

ON PARENTING

For teachers and day-care workers, cash is an appropriate gift

By Meghan Leahy

Q: Do you have opinions on what gifts are best for teachers and day-care workers? Is cash appropriate? If so, how much?

A: Do I have opinions? Friend, you've come to the right place. Thank you for offering one of the easiest questions that has ever been asked in my almost 10 years of writing the column.

"Is cash appropriate?" YES. Yes. And yes.

When it comes to anyone who works with or near children, cash is appropriate. Why? Because they are grossly underpaid. In many cases, day-care workers are paid less than someone serving coffee at Dunkin'. And while public school teachers fare better in pay, the pandemic and our political climate have resulted in a teacher shortage. Public school teachers are, largely, overworked, threatened with violence and managing issues that they aren't meant to handle, and still spend up to $500 of their own money for basic supplies (sometimes more).

So yes, cash works.

How much you give is personal. It could be based, for example, on your experience with the teachers or your income.

You should, of course, be sure that your district or day care doesn't have any strict rules around cash as gifts. Next, make sure that your school or class hasn't already created a group gift collection. If they haven't, companies like Cheddar Up make it easy to collect from parents. (This is usually the role of the class parent.) You aren't obligated to do a group gift; you can purchase your own gift cards to Amazon, Target or other companies that people frequently use.

And as a former teacher, I truly did appreciate every mug, homemade cookie and bath salt, but the gifts I cherished the most were notes from students and parents. A heartfelt and short note is balm to a weary teacher's soul and, when paired with a gift card, makes for a lovely gift.

I would recommend having your child write thank yous (or have them dictate if they aren't writing yet) for their teachers, and art works, too. By having our children, of all ages, write something short and specific, ("Thank you for letting me turn in my homework late," or "Thank you for taking us to the zoo, I loved the elephants,") reminds teachers how much they matter. I would make it fun; get some hot chocolate, put on your favorite holiday music, get or make some cards, have some good pens and have a little "thank you" session in your family. Your children may eye-roll or sigh, but it's worth it to try, and the parents have to participate by writing notes to their important people, too, like trash collectors and mail carriers.

Look at that — everyone wins, and you parent your kids in a way that teaches them empathy, kindness and appreciation.

Good luck and happy holidays!

Also at washingtonpost.com
Read the transcript of a recent live Q&A with Leahy at *washingtonpost.com/advice*, where you can also find past columns.

Send parenting questions to Leahy at *onparenting@washpost.com*.

PARENTING Q&A

‘The whole world hates me’: Soothing a sensitive 5-year-old

Parenting coach and columnist Meghan Leahy answered questions recently in an online chat. Here is an edited excerpt.

Q: My partner and I are parents of an extremely joyful 5-year-old boy. He started kindergarten this year and has told us many times that he “loves his new school.” By all accounts he is doing well.

This has come as a pleasant surprise because we see him as very joyful but also (doubtlessly projecting our own issues somewhat) as a socially anxious kid. His “three-K” year at preschool was filled with lots of tears and difficulty fitting in (though the school was wonderful about it). His pre-K year at the same school was much better but still reflected some social anxiety.

Sometimes if we scold him, he’ll say, “You don’t love/care about me,” or “Nobody loves me.” (We and his older brother have always showered him with love and affection — I very much feel that he overall feels very loved.) Today, during a little tantrum, he said, “The whole world hates me.” He’s very good at talking about his emotions and doesn’t dwell on it for too long, so I’m inclined to think he’s very aware of what he’s saying and is doing it for effect.

But then again, he’s only 5. Is it possible for a 5-year-old to say things like that for effect, or should we worry?

A: To begin, worrying never gets you anywhere, but I have yet to meet a parent who doesn’t worry. It seems to come with the territory.

Five-year-olds are intense creatures, and while you have called your son socially anxious, I would strongly encourage you to relabel him as sensitive. This matters because rather than saddling him with adult diagnoses, we are seeing his behavior through a new lens.

Rather than seeing him as manipulative (for effect) or broken, what if he simply feels his emotions a bit more deeply than the average kid? What if his expression that “the whole world hates me” is a release of fear and alarm instead of something to be treated?

You cannot prove the whole world doesn’t hate him and you cannot change that he said it. Instead, we can come alongside his big feelings and simply say, “I have felt like this before,” and see what comes up. Or say, “Yeah, I see how hard this is for you.” Or better yet, say nothing and stay close by or give him a loving hug.



PEOPLEIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Rather than seeing their son as socially anxious or manipulative, the parents should relabel him as sensitive. They can let him express his big feelings and simply say, “I have felt like this before.”

Of course, your panic will urge you to parent the heck outta this situation, but resist that urge. Try to observe how long it takes your son to feel the big feelings, say all the things and then come around to feeling calm again.

Q: We have a teen who does the bare minimum. I know this isn’t unusual. But how do we encourage him to pick it up a bit without lecturing/nagging him all the time? He will stare at his phone or want to play video games for hours, and only do homework for 45 minutes to get a “good enough” grade. It’s so frustrating.

A: There’s no such thing as zero nagging, at least not in this country.

To break this cycle, you are going to need to work on things in this order:

1. Building the relationship and connection.
2. Co-creating chores and work.
3. Lather, rinse, repeat until he leaves the house.

Most parents want to dole out the chores before the connection, but when is the last time you wanted to work for someone who bossed you around, harassed you and generally got in your face? Yeah, you don’t. So take him out for hot chocolate or dinner and just talk. Don’t pry, don’t lecture, don’t shame. Just listen, be interested and be interesting.

As the relationships thaws, you may find him naturally more inclined to help.

When everything feels easier, say, “I have noticed that the glasses and plates are not leaving the room where you game. Tell me what’s going on with that,” and see where it goes. For the best results, I would use Ross Greene’s collaborative and proactive solutions to reach an agreement that suits both of you.

Q: My 5-year-old is stubborn. Once he has an idea in his head, it’s very hard to move him from it. It’s starting to pour over now into school settings (e.g., “I wanted to sit next to my friend, but there are no more chairs at that table. Instead of sitting at another table, I’ll just stand and not complete the assignment”). We talk through options with our son and try to give him the power to choose from the options available, but that doesn’t always work. Any other ideas or strategies to keep his determined spirit but also develop an understanding of respecting the needs and wishes of his parents/teachers?

A: Being strong-willed or stubborn can be a highlight of this age, and while he may have this temperament, I really want to know what is happening at home.

For instance, if your son starts saying, “No, I will not sit in that seat!” and you argue and cajole and punish and go back and forth and then give in, you are not helping your son adapt to what cannot or should not be changed. His young neural pathways ways are lighting up with the “win,” and with repetition, you can begin to raise a child who never experiences the mini-griefs and frustrations of true “nos.”

Talking through options is often a fruitless venture because it is still perceived as a weak move on the parents’ part. If the answer is a true and real no, but you go back and forth with choices, you are still just trying to avoid upset and frustration. Choices and options only work if you are not trying to sidestep upset.

You see where I am going, right? You are going to have to say no, say it once and not punish or really do much of anything after you have given the boundary. If you punish, the kid learns nothing and resents you. If you give in, the child doesn’t experience the boundary and you resent him. If you give choices, you are kicking the can down the road and still not saying no. A clear, true no without seething anger is what is needed.

That being said, you cannot hand out all nos all the time. If you have given in and given options and blah blah blah, it would very much hurt your relationship to hold too many boundaries. Deliberately pick your boundaries and just practice holding those, while letting other things slide.

This is very tough parenting work, so seek out Gordon Neufeld’s work around Alpha Children, hire a good coach who won’t focus on simply behavioralism and punishment, and keep a healthy sense of humor. Stuff is going to get real, really fast. You will need to let off steam to a safe person.

Also at washingtonpost.com
Read the rest of this transcript and submit questions to the next chat, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., at *live.washingtonpost.com*.

Home Sales

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

These sales data recorded by the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue were provided by Black Knight Inc. For information about other residential real estate transactions, visit *washingtonpost.com/homesales*.

NORTHEAST

Abbey Pl., 1157, $298,065.
Ascot Pl., 212, $640,000.
Bladensburg Rd., 1028, No. 15, $338,500.
Brooks St., 5118, $450,000.
Capitol St. E., 308, No. 2, $570,000.
Chillum Pl., 5317, $500,000.
Clay St., 3324, $485,000.
Delafield Pl., 1280, $512,000.
Downing St., 1419, $515,000.
Eads St., 4528, $425,000.
Evarts St., 401, No. 202, $352,000.
Foote St., 4215, $415,000.
G St., 809, $1.24 million.
Gault Pl., 4217, $350,000.
Harry Thomas Way, 1500, No. 107, $859,900.
Harry Thomas Way, 1500, No. 503, $297,700.
I St., 215, No. 204, $1.07 million.
Jefferson St., 645, $505,000.
Kenilworth Ave., 1400, $420,100.
L St., 1846, $595,000.
Massachusetts Ave., 905, $1.95 million.
Monroe St., 1512, $560,000.
Morse St., 1171, $770,500.
Newton St., 1707, $736,000.
Otis St., 1349, $1.5 million.
Queen St., 1105, $565,000.
Quincy Pl., 124, $500,000.
Randolph Pl., 219, No. 1, $795,000.
Rhode Island Ave., 1001, $3.8 million.
South Dakota Ave., 4525, $720,000.
Tennessee Ave., 514, $1.27 million.
Virginia Ave. W., 1654, No. 3, $639,000.
Second St., 1831, No. 509, $299,900.
Fourth St., 723, $1.08 million.
Sixth St., 719, $1.52 million.
Seventh St., 3338, $1.13 million.
Eighth St., 1026, No. C, $1.35 million.
Ninth St., 1103, No. 2, $1.07 million.
10th St., 5020, $545,000.
12th St., 5019, $650,000.
14th St., 3701, $1.5 million.
16th St., 2904, $600,000.
19th St., 217, $1.37 million.
22nd St., 3810, $809,000.
30th St., 2816, $525,000.
54th St., 331, $335,450.

NORTHWEST

Adams St., 167, $899,000.
Albemarle St., 3806, $3.15 million.
Arizona Ave., 3019, $2.17 million.
Belmont Rd., 1834, $2.1 million.
Blagden Ave., 4822, $667,000.
Buchanan St., 1414, $1.44 million.
California St., 1840, No. 1A, $580,000.
Cameron Dr., 6803, No. 207, $325,200.
Cameron Dr., 6803, No. 507, $1.02 million.
Cedar St., 517, $1.55 million.
Channing St., 34, No. 1, $485,000.
Clifton St., 1341, No. 301, $370,000.
Columbia Rd., 1669, $260,000.
Columbia Rd., 2022, No. 205, $1.23 million.
Connecticut Ave., 5112, $355,900.
Crittenden St., 801, $1.02 million.
Dogwood St., 3034, $1.53 million.
Elliot Pl., 1517, $925,000.
Euclid St., 1214, No. 1, $770,000.
Fairmont St., 1220, $900,000.
Fern Pl., 704, $980,000.
Florida Ave., 929, No. 3006, $340,000.
Fulton St., 3925, No. 3, $590,000.
Georgia Ave., 5230, No. 202, $239,300.
Greenwich Pkwy., 4458, $1.12 million.
Harvard St., 1723, $1.07 million.
Indian Lane, 4852, $5.75 million.
Kalorama Rd., 1806, No. 1, $515,000.
Kenyon St., 1390, No. 811, $615,000.
L St., 2425, No. 834, $1.65 million.
Lamont St., 836, No. B, $715,000.
Longfellow St., 16, $1.39 million.
Lowell Lane, 5100, $5.3 million.
M St., 444, No. 8, $650,000.
M St., 2501, No. 306, $1.25 million.
Macarthur Ct., 5002, $1.82 million.
Manor Pl., 445, No. 3, $410,000.
Military Rd., 4301, No. 105, $349,500.
Monroe St., 1463, $1.12 million.
N St., 1300, No. 713, $295,000.
N St., 3100, No. 1, $515,000.
New Hampshire Ave., 2039, $227,500.
Newport Pl., 2132, $1.33 million.
O St., 407, $1.07 million.
O St., 2007, No. 201, $415,000.
O St., 3040, $2.4 million.
Ordway St., 3616, $3.2 million.
P St., 1005, $1.75 million.
P St., 2141, No. 505, $424,000.
Pennsylvania Ave., 801, No. 1112, $140,000.
Porter St., 3047, $1.88 million.
Q St., 635, $1.19 million.
Q St., 2031, No. 3, $1.12 million.
Q St., 2531, No. 307, $625,000.
Quebec St., 4961, $1.5 million.
R St., 75, No. 2, $620,000.
R St., 1708, $2.27 million.
Rock Creek Church Rd., 221, $667,000.
S St., 1459, No. 1, $699,000.
Shepherd St., 311, $900,000.
Spring Pl., 1528, $1.22 million.
T St., 58, No. 4, $549,900.
T St., 3607, $1.05 million.
Tuckerman St., 1446, No. 205, $130,000.
Upshur St., 609, $610,000.
V St., 1009, $876,000.
Vermont Ave., 1906, No. D, $1.7 million.
Warder St., 3217, No. 3, $698,500.
Westover Pl., 4437, $1.48 million.
Wiltberger St., 1827, No. 406, $1.2 million.
Wisconsin Ave., 3022, No. 106, $262,500.
Wisconsin Ave., 3217, No. 5B, $245,000.
Wyoming Ave., 1801, No. 32, $869,000.

SEE **HOMES** ON **2**



Home Sales

HOMES FROM 1

First Pl., 5414, No. 202, $440,000.
Second Pl., 5921, $715,000.
Fourth St., 811, No. 203, $614,000.
Fourth St., 1226, No. 2, $935,000.
Fifth St., 5302, $975,000.
Seventh St., 777, No. 312, $337,500.
Eighth St., 1508, $1.39 million.
Ninth St., 3719, $716,000.
10th St., 1215, No. 21, $555,000.
11th St., 1125, No. 403, $755,000.
11th St., 2101, No. 506, $530,000.
12th Pl., 2239, $704,000.
13th St., 1225, No. 509, $505,000.
13th St., 3614, No. 1, $885,000.
14th St., 2125, No. 230, $730,000.
14th St., 4020, $418,000.
17th St., 1916, No. 204, $377,000.
18th St., 1601, No. 204, $239,000.
19th St., 2100, $425,000.
20th St., 2415, No. 25, $440,000.
23rd St., 1230, No. 608, $420,000.
24th St., 1111, No. 96, $3 million.
27th St., 2846, $1.84 million.
32nd St., 1536, $4.79 million.
33rd St., 1633, No. R-1, $2.69 million.
38th St., 4613, $2.42 million.
44th St., 4912, $1.21 million.

SOUTHEAST

A St., 1441, $837,300.
Alabama Ave., 3983, $475,000.
B St., 5309, $479,000.
Buena Vista Terr., 3212, $470,000.
Carolina Ave. N., 122, $1.15 million.
Chesapeake St., 625, No. 204, $114,000.
Douglass Pl., 2617, No. 101, $255,000.
E St., 5215, $536,000.
Fort Dupont St., 1661, $340,000.
G St., 647, $1.16 million.
High St., 2262, $711,000.
Hilltop Terr., 510, $375,000.
Ives Pl., 1337, $889,000.
L St., 1334, $731,000.
Mississippi Ave., 129, $250,000.
Newcomb St., 403, $715,000.
Pennsylvania Ave., 1391, No. 405, $525,000.
Ridge Pl., 2006, $545,000.
Seward Sq., 511, $2.05 million.
Suitland Terr., 2128, No. 101, $118,700.
Valley Pl., 1337, $635,000.
Wade Rd., 2640, No. 32, $66,000.
Third St., 610, No. 6, $386,000.
Eighth St., 3009, $486,400.
14th St., 913, No. 1, $615,000.
17th St., 333, $825,000.
21st St., 3501, $455,000.
38th St., 2110, No. 101, $150,000.

SOUTHWEST

Delaware Ave., 811, No. 230, $735,000.
M St., 300, No. N401, $520,000.
V St., 88, No. 104, $663,000.
Water St., 525, No. 109, $745,000.
Fourth St., 800, No. S312, $357,500.
Fourth St., 1425, No. M6, $295,000.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

These sales data recorded by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation in March were provided by Black Knight Inc. For information about other residential real estate transactions, visit *washingtonpost.com/homesales*.

ASPEN HILL AREA

Ashby Rd., 13709, $600,000.
Caldwell St., 12801, $479,000.
Chestnut Lane, 4500, $1.3 million.
Frankfort Dr. W., 4501, $495,000.
Holly Ridge Rd., 4618, $951,000.
Music Grove Ct., 16609, $354,640.
Russett Terr., 13611, $760,000.

SEE HOMES ON 4



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Home Sales

HOMES FROM 2

Westbury Rd., 14801, $945,000.

BETHESDA AREA

Albemarle St., 5412, $2 million.
Arizona Cir., 10210, No. 13, $685,000.
Blackwood Rd., 6302, $1 million.
Brook Lane N., 118, $1.06 million.
Burdette Rd., 8300, No. 665, $970,000.
Carmichael Ave., 6919, $2.08 million.
Democracy Blvd., 7505, No. A437, $240,000.
Eagle Ridge Dr., 9405, $2.62 million.
Exfair Rd., 7118, $1.81 million.
Glenwood Rd., 5319, $1.32 million.
Hampden Lane, 4801, No. 203, $532,500.
Iroquois Rd., 5307, $1.05 million.
Kittery Lane, 9100, $1.6 million.
Macarthur Blvd., 7209, $1.15 million.
Milroy Pl., 9304, $1.16 million.
Montrose Ave., 10509, No. M3, $315,000.
Orchid Dr., 6307, $1.06 million.
Quarry Ridge Way, 7907, $1.08 million.
Sangamore Rd., 5003, $1.04 million.
Sentinel Dr., 5023, No. 122, $309,900.
Wadsworth Dr., 9613, $935,000.
Westlake Terr., 7420, No. 503, $375,000.
Winston Dr., 6312, $1.15 million.

BOYDS AREA

Diller Lane, 21805, $513,000.
Old Baltimore Rd. W., 12231, $652,990.

BROOKEVILLE AREA

Dimona Dr., 19304, $550,000.
Gregg Rd., 4213, $875,000.

BURTONSVILLE AREA

Ballinger Ct., 19, $374,600.
Letterkenny Ct., 14211, $426,000.

CABIN JOHN AREA

Persimmon Tree Rd., 6517, $1.73 million.

CALVERTON-COLESVILLE AREA

Carriage House Terr., 1625, No. C, $200,000.
Gracefield Rd., 2925, $650,000.
Ivywood Ct., 13, $635,000.
Old Columbia Pike, 12001, No. 709, $140,000.
Regent Manor Ct., 1605, $601,000.
Sir Thomas Way, 13609, No. 1-C-24, $225,000.

CHEVY CHASE AREA

Blackthorn Ct., 3705, $1.75 million.
Bradley Lane, 3512, $1.54 million.
Dunlop St., 3501, $1.39 million.
Lynnhurst St., 7416, $1.6 million.
Rosemary St., 4207, $2.79 million.
Village Park Dr., 3824, $2 million.
Woodmont Ave., 7111, No. 616, $370,000.

CLARKSBURG AREA

Broadway Ave., 22605, $530,000.
Clarksburg Square Rd., 13015, $630,000.
Frederick Rd., 26026, $599,990.
Little Seneca Pkwy., 11912, No. 2441, $390,000.
Observation Dr., 22724, $549,999.
Phillips St., 22510, No. 506, $396,000.
Pipistrelle Alley, 123, $784,427.
Shawnee Lane, 13200, No. 901, $438,750.
Weald Way, 733, $570,999.
Woodcock Way, 21958, $817,996.

CLOVERLY-EDNOR AREA

Elm Grove Cir., 1414, $366,000.
Twig Terr., 1320, $330,000.

DAMASCUS AREA

Holsey Rd., 9440, $275,000.
Marlboro Dr., 24600, $95,000.
Ridge Rd., 27414, $375,000.
Viewland Dr., 26144, $795,000.

DERWOOD AREA

Bowery St., 16122, $610,290.
Bowery St., 16138, $639,090.
Briardale Rd., 17133, $490,000.
Founders Mill Dr., 17201, $630,000.
Olde Mill Run, 16918, $685,000.

FOUR CORNERS-BURNT MILLS AREA

Bradford Rd., 8516, No. 4-2, $365,000.
Crestmoor Dr., 10320, $975,000.
Franklin Ave. E., 8, $552,500.
Heron Dr., 908, $500,000.
Kinsman View Cir., 125, $505,000.
Manchester Rd., 8601, No. 521, $258,000.
Pierce Dr., 10308, $590,000.
Sutherland Rd., 10002, $671,000.
Wayne Ave. E., 95, No. 204, $150,000.

GAITHERSBURG AREA

Bralan Ct., 42, $455,000.
Christopher Ave., 401, No. 11, $199,900.
Cobbler Pl., 711, $520,000.
Gardenia Way, 18460, $490,000.
Hallmark Ct., 18301, $430,000.
Lee St., 6, $320,000.
Odendhal Ave., 556, $440,000.
Sandpiper Lane, 18669, $395,000.
Water St., 100, $451,000.

GAITHERSBURG-NORTH POTOMAC AREA

Ancient Oak Dr., 15605, $814,500.
Apricot Ct., 9, $681,000.
Bostwick Ct., 6, $621,832.
Chestertown St., 745, $1.2 million.
Copley Cir., 140, No. 22-B, $610,000.
Dufief Dr., 15232, $798,000.
Fields Rd., 9772, $640,000.
Green Dome Pl., 41, $724,990.
Hackberry Pl., 424, $550,000.
High Gables Dr., 310, No. 204, $302,000.
Horse Center Rd., 12209, $625,000.
Kent Square Rd., 110, $805,000.
Midsummer Cir., 220, $985,000.
Oak Shade Rd., 3, $290,000.
Paramus Dr., 11605, $1.06 million.
Quince Orchard Blvd., 776, No. 201, $163,000.
Ridgepoint Pl., 109, $570,000.
Rockwell Ave., 1221, $704,602.
Summer Grove Ct., 15512, $895,000.
Uptown St., 404, $797,000.

SEE HOMES ON 5



Home Sales

HOMES FROM 4

GERMANTOWN AREA
Astoria Hill Ct., 13201, No. D, $241,000.
Chalet Dr., 18020, No. 17-203, $230,000.
Climbing Ivy Dr., 12903, $392,500.
Country Ridge Dr., 13178, $335,000.
Dover Cliffs Cir., 19417, $425,000.
Esmond Terr., 19200, $395,000.
Fountain Club Dr., 13400, $430,000.
Lancraft Ct., 14716, $1.35 million.
Lullaby Rd., 13924, $532,000.
Nutmeg Pl., 18511, $315,000.
Peacemaker Dr., 20360, $605,000.
Rockingham Rd., 14025, $550,000.
Shadyside Lane, 13060, No. 93-6, $250,000.
Shipley Terr., 20248, No. 6-B-102, $185,000.
Swiss Cir., 18243, No. 1-20, $241,000.
White Saddle Dr., 19617, $315,000.

KENSINGTON AREA
Archer Pl., 3819, $652,500.
Crestwood Rd., 10138, $1.5 million.
Everett St., 4017, $2.4 million.
Homewood Pkwy., 3022, $490,000.
Midvale Rd., 11122, $1.15 million.
Palisades Ct., 11305, $587,500.
Strathmore Ave., 5315, $1.05 million.

LAUREL AREA
Riding Stable Rd., 15404, $640,000.

LAYTONSVILLE AREA
Golf View Dr., 20900, $1.01 million.
Warfield Rd., 7916, $839,000.

MONTGOMERY VILLAGE AREA
Apple Ridge Pl., 19928, $365,000.
Bay Point Pl., 20320, $316,750.
Brassie Pl., 19441, No. 203, $120,000.
Canadian Ct., 19010, $440,000.
Drexel Hill Cir., 19945, $342,000.
Hellingly Pl., 9777, No. 8, $156,500.
Highland Hall Dr., 20726, $455,000.
Lea Pond Pl., 20225, $356,000.
Marston Lane, 9604, $280,000.
Nathans Pl., 18835, $255,188.
Oak Grove Lane, 9417, $170,500.
Ridgeline Dr., 9989, $335,000.
Walkers Choice Rd., 18705, No. 4, $150,000.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ESTATES-HILLANDALE AREA
Carroll Ave., 8723, $385,000.
Paula Dr., 1506, $480,000.

NORBECK-LAYHILL AREA
Baughman Ct., 12, $950,000.
Bennion Rd., 4504, $430,000.
Clara Downey Ave., 3750, No. 45, $385,000.
Deckman Lane, 2228, $682,000.
Doc Berlin Dr., 3910, No. 14, $324,000.
Foggy Glen Ct., 1404, $827,000.
Gate Dr. N., 13908, $738,000.
Habersham Cir., 14956, $399,000.
Interlachen Dr., 15100, No. 4-923, $280,000.
Ivy Glen Rd., 4211, $365,000.

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HOMES FROM 5

Middle Rd., 12215, $300,000.
Parker Creek Lane, 3402, No. 96-B, $399,000.
Rippling Brook Dr., 13913, $657,500.
Valleyfield Dr., 14106, No. 8-6, $261,000.
Wilcox Lane, 1742, $347,000.

OLNEY AREA

Bridle Ridge Lane, 16651, $1.55 million.
Dartmoor Lane, 3510, No. 27, $401,000.
Longview Lane, 17511, $386,000.
Old Baltimore Dr., 3801, No. 101, $370,000.
Rolling Meadow Way, 18270, $440,000.
Thornberry Lane, 18613, $630,000.
Winter Garden Way, 2207, $536,000.

POOLESVILLE AREA

Bodmer Ave., 19980, $1.01 million.
Jerusalem Church Rd., 18408, $1.26 million.
Sugarland Rd., 15811, $1.89 million.

POTOMAC AREA

Ansin Circle Dr., 12535, $1.36 million.
Buckspark Lane E., 8156, $1.07 million.
Coach St., 7909, $1.66 million.
Dunster Lane, 1483, $830,000.
Greenbriar Preserve Lane, 11301, $1.8 million.
Lake Potomac Terr., 12204, $2.41 million.
Maidstone Lane, 13635, $1.76 million.
Oracle Pl., 7844, $905,000.
Rouen Lane, 9020, $1.1 million.
Streamview Ct., 10507, $1.43 million.
Tulip Lane, 10515, $2.25 million.

ROCKVILLE AREA

Azalea Dr., 772, No. 14, $417,000.
Bickford Ave., 515, $472,500.
Braxfield Ct., 12405, No. 507, $237,500.
Chapman Mill Dr., 5716, No. 1506, $375,000.
Commonwealth Dr., 11301, No. 201, $350,000.
Cranes Bill Ct., 3916, $1.3 million.
Forest Ave., 109, $925,000.
Gloxinia Dr., 10741, $510,000.
Grosvenor Pl., 10201, No. 426, $179,000.
Inman Park Cir., 5800, No. 1314, $425,000.
King Farm Blvd., 502, No. 404, $457,500.
Lux Lane, 6132, $1.3 million.
Monroe St., 118, No. 403, $140,000.
New Mark Esplanade, 508, $506,250.
Old Georgetown Rd., 11700, No. 1601, $410,000.
Old Georgetown Rd., 11750, No. 2211, $315,000.
Olden Rd., 4603, $525,000.
Putnam Rd., 12112, $645,000.
Rosemont Dr., 11029, $2.02 million.
Sterling Ct., 27, $760,000.
Templeton Pl., 1567, $600,000.
Valley Oak Cir., 13730, $730,000.

SANDY SPRING AREA

Oakwood Manor Dr., 1150, $1.02 million.

SENECA PARK-CEDAR GROVE AREA

Bunyan Cir., 21331, No. 207, $480,000.
Elderberry Terr., 19342, $182,000.
Halethorpe Lane, 20220, No. 214, $242,500.
Running Cedar Ct., 19304, $325,000.
Zinnia Cir., 19449, $270,000.

SILVER SPRING AREA

Geneva Ave., 127, $1.59 million.
Hanover St., 2115, $750,000.
Mayfair Pl., 8607, $1.07 million.
Roeder Rd., 700, No. 103, $339,900.
Roeder Rd., 700, No. 601, $354,900.
Sunnyside Rd., 111, $1.1 million.
Washington Ave., 2219, No. W-202, $235,000.
Woodbury Dr., 7901, $700,000.
13th St., 8005, No. 211, $365,000.

TAKOMA PARK AREA

Grant Ave., 5, $720,000.
Larch Ave., 912, $850,000.
Tulip Ave., 407, No. 202, $385,000.

TWINBROOK AREA

Calvin Lane, 408, $520,000.
Edmonston Dr., 621, $475,000.
Lewis Ave., 1625, $510,000.

WHEATON AREA

Arbor View Rd., 1720, $691,000.
Coleridge Dr., 2005, No. 13-103, $165,000.
Easecrest Dr., 11113, $360,000.
Georgia Ave., 10405, $550,000.
Highview Ave., 11516, $460,000.
Kimberly St., 2507, $680,000.
Orebaugh Ave., 11703, $610,000.
University Blvd. W., 1111, No. 614-A, $149,000.
Watermill Lane, 11242, $525,000.
Yates St., 11503, $487,500.

FREDERICK COUNTY

These sales data recorded by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation in March were provided by Black Knight Inc. For information about other residential real estate transactions, visit *washingtonpost.com/homesales*.

BRUNSWICK AREA

F St. E., 207, $278,000.
Peach Orchard Ct., 15, $235,000.

BURKITTSVILLE-JEFFERSON AREA

Boyington Dr., 3717, $512,000.
Shadywood Dr., 3855, No. 3D, $200,000.

EMMITSBURG AREA

Crystal Fountain Rd., 8725, $240,000.
Old Gettysburg Rd., 17523, $225,000.

FREDERICK CITY-ADAMSTOWN VILLAGE AREA

Alan Linton Blvd. E., 6523, $385,000.
Black Creek Lane, 7219, $287,000.
Crabapple Dr., 5665, $230,000.
Earles Ct., 5204, $330,000.
Forum Sq., 5936, $348,000.
Jefferson Blvd., 5903, $630,000.
Lancaster Pl., 569, $280,000.
Mount Zion Rd., 4826, $320,000.
Myrtle Pl., 5711, $400,000.
Saint Simon Ct., 5011, $570,000.
Wesley Sq., 5032, $447,500.

FREDERICK CITY-LIBERTYTOWN AREA

Banksia Dr., 416, $180,000.
Blue Heron Dr., 8203, No. 2D, $230,000.
Carrollton Dr., 517, No. 23, $190,000.
Everly Dr. N., 2634, No. 5-8, $297,500.
Greenleese Dr. N., 1808, $499,990.
Liberty Rd., 9610, $150,000.
Madison St., 376, $275,000.
Mill Race Rd., 2619, $650,000.
Pearl St., 406, $360,000.
South St. W., 209, $420,000.
Stoners Ford Way, 3033, $605,000.
Waterside Dr., 2500, No. 207, $329,000.
Wyngate Dr., 273, $359,900.

FREDERICK CITY-MOUNTAINDALE AREA

Bethel Rd., 10719, $40,000.
Burgess Hill Way, 120, No. 312, $240,000.
Edgewood Church Rd., 8203, $435,000.
Heather Lane, 1744, $220,000.
Lakeside Dr., 2491, $395,000.
Longfellow Ct., 2407, $300,000.
Penwick Cir., 104, $349,000.
Shelley Cir., 2509, No. 5TB, $261,000.
Tuscarora Valley Ct., 2017, $427,000.
Wilson Pl., 510, $350,000.

IJAMSVILLE AREA

Gray Marsh Pl., 11018, $744,500.
Rochefort St., 5814, $470,000.

LIBERTYTOWN AREA

Coppermine Rd., 12030, $1.1 million.

MIDDLETOWN AREA

Mountain Church Rd., 6930, $455,000.

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Featured Employers of The Week

Adventist HealthCare

Healthcare–*We are a faith-based healthcare organization, based in Montgomery County, Maryland. We are the largest employer in Montgomery County with over 6,000 employees! Our comprehensive approach to caring for our community includes three acute-care hospitals – Shady Grove Medical Center, White Oak Medical Center and Fort Washington Medical Center – as well as two Physical Rehabilitation hospitals, Outpatient centers, Imaging Centers, Urgent Cares, Home Care Services, Employer Health Programs and Physician Networks. We are…*

Cardiovascular Surgeon Part Time– *Silver Spring*
Adventist HealthCare seeks to hire a Cardiovascular surgeon who will embrace our mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing. If you want to make a difference in someone's life every day…

Security Officer, Rotating Shifts, Security Services– *Rockville*
Adventist HealthCare seeks to hire a Security Officer who will embrace our mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing. As a Security Officer you will:
• Ensure that security…

Northwest Federal Credit Union

Financial Services and Banking–*For more than 70 years, Northwest Federal has provided valuable financial products and services for our members. We're dedicated to being a trusted partner in the financial journey—from childhood savings accounts to financing a college education, first car, family home, and retirement savings. Our dedicated, service-oriented team is committed to living our WHY: Together, we serve and inspire to transform lives.*

Security Network Engineer–*Herndon*
The Security Network Engineer is a full-time position and operates as a member of the IT Security Team. The position's main role is to configure, test, maintain, and administer IT Security related networking equipment and applications. A secondary role is to assist with the overall…

Branch Member Service Representative I-III–*McLean*
The primary role of this position is to assist Northwest Federal Credit Union to live out our vision to be the lifetime financial partner for our member-owners. One of the primary means to achieve this end is to develop a highly effective team of employees…

George Mason University

Education–*George Mason University is a university with three campuses, each with a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its region. At each campus, students, faculty, and staff have full access to all the university's resources, while duplication of programs and support services is minimized through the use of technology. In addition to the main campus in Fairfax, the university has campuses in Arlington and Prince William Counties.*

Term Assistant Professor of Microbiology–*Fairfax*
The George Mason University Department of Biology invites individuals with a dedication to teaching and mentoring of undergraduate biology students to apply for an instructional faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin in August 2023.

Associate Director, Academic Integrity– *Fairfax*
The George Mason University, Office of Academic Integrity, invites applications for an Associate Director of Academic Integrity position. George Mason University has a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence…

NRI Staffing

Staffing–*NRI is a Washington, D.C. based regional staffing services firm with offices in D.C., VA and MD. For over 50 years, NRI has provided world-class staffing services to a wide variety of commercial and government clients. We provide our staffing services not as generalists, but rather as distinct teams of specialists. Our highly skilled recruiting team offers career development and access to the best professional opportunities in the nation's capital and beyond.*

Accounting & Grants Coordinator– *Washington D.C.*
Non-profit seeks an Accounting & Grants Coordinator to manage small grants, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. A College Degree and 3+ years' Accounting experience required. Earn $60k-$65K. npolynice@NRI-staffing.com.

LPN - Assisted Living– *Washington D.C.*
Assisted Living Facility in DC seeks an LPN with 1+ years of experience. Day and evening shifts available. DC LPN License Required. Earn $40/hour. sbenson@nri-staffing.com.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Delivery and Transportation–*The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates the second largest rail transit system and the fifth largest bus network in the United States. Safe, clean and reliable, "America's Transit System" transports more than a third of the federal government to work and millions of tourists to the landmarks in the Nation's Capital. Metro has earned a worldwide reputation for security and architectural beauty. WMATA is clearly the employer of choice for over 10,000 area residents. The Authority was created in 1967 by…*

Bus Driver– *Washington D.C.*
This is an extended duration posting for current and future openings for the Metro-Bus Operator Training Program. Applications will be continuously assessed. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) invites applications for entry into the…

Bus Control Communications Specialist–
*This job opening is being used to fill current and future vacant positions in this classification at various shifts, locations and assigned days off Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency certificate (GED). Five…

Dewberry

Engineering–*Dewberry is a leading, market-facing professional services firm with more than 50 locations and 2,000 professionals nationwide. What sets us apart from our competitors are our people. At Dewberry, we seek out exceptional talent and strive to deliver the highest quality of services to our clients. Whether you're an experienced professional or a new graduate, you'll have the chance to collaborate with the best and brightest and work on innovative and complex projects at the forefront of the industry. Our commitment to excellence…*

Marketing Intern - Federal Marketing Team–*Fairfax*
Dewberry is looking to hire a Marketing Intern to join the Federal Marketing Team in Fairfax, VA. This is a great opportunity for a motivated and hard-working individual who has an interest in entering the capture management field, specifically…

Sr. Accounting Manager–*Fairfax*
Senior Accounting Manager is considered part of the Finance & Accounting's Leadership Team. This position will supervise day to day operations of Accounting Functions (Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and Payroll). This position is responsible for the…

Westat

Research–*Westat, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington, D.C., is an employee-owned research corporation serving agencies of the U.S. Government, state and local governments, businesses, and foundations. We conduct surveys and program evaluations, provide statistical research, and offer related services. Our multiproject environment provides career opportunities in health, energy, education, transportation, the environment, human services, and the workforce. We combine the relevant research area expertise…*

Survey Tester– *Rockville*
Westat is seeking a survey and system Test Specialist to join a team responsible for applying rigorous testing standards to Westat's accessible multimode computer-assisted surveys, websites, and integration systems developed using a variety of technologies.

Senior Research Associate/ Implementation Scientist (Remote-U.S. Based)–*Rockville*
Westat is an employee-owned corporation providing research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as businesses, foundations, and state and local governments. Westat's research…

The Emmes Company, LLC

Science–*The Emmes Company, LLC established in 1977, is a privately owned Clinical Research Organization (CRO). We are a public health focused company that is growing and adding staff regularly in many areas including clinical operations, data management, bio statistics, project management, and regulatory as well as corporate positions to support our project needs. We are committed to ensuring that our newly hired staff receive a positive virtual on-boarding experience and the support they need to effectively work remotely. Headquartered…*

Associate Data Manager–
Emmes Services Pvt. Ltd, ("Emmes") is searching for Associate Data Manager in Clinical Research located in our Bangalore, India office. Emmes provides flexibility for office location preference, dependent upon position. Emmes Services Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, a fully…

Associate TMF Specialist–
Emmes Services Pvt. Ltd, ("Emmes") is searching for Associate Trial Master File Specialist in Clinical Research located in our Bangalore, India office. Emmes provides flexibility for office location preference, dependent upon position. Emmes Services Pvt. Ltd…

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Associations–*The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association was founded in 1925. It is a not-for-profit scientific and professional association for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech and hearing scientists. ASHA is committed to the consumers of our services, the more than 42 million Americans with communication disorders. ASHA's mission is to ensure that all people with speech-language, and hearing disorders receive quality services from well-educated professionals. The American Speech-Language-Hearing…*

Software Developer– *Rockville*
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association requires all new employees to present proof they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 when they start work. Currently, "fully vaccinated" is defined as someone that has received both doses of the Pfizer…

Accreditation Program Manager– *Rockville*
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association requires all new employees to present proof they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 when they start work. Currently, "fully vaccinated" is defined as someone that has received…

Fairfax County Government

Government and Public Services–*Fairfax County, Virginia is a diverse and thriving urban county. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area, the County's population exceeds that of seven states. The median household income of Fairfax County is one of the highest in the nation and over half of its adult residents have four-year college degrees or more educational attainment. Fairfax County also is home to an extensive commercial office market and is a major employment center. Fairfax County…*

Social Services Specialist III–*Fairfax*
This job announcement is being re-advertised. If you previously applied you do not need to reapply in order to be considered. As a member of the Foster Care and Adoption Program, serves a caseload of clients that includes children/youth in foster care and their birth…

Social Services Specialist III–*Fairfax*
This is an exciting time to join Fairfax County Government as we shape racial and social equity policies in the county through the One Fairfax Policy. Using this framework, we intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services. To learn…

DCS Corp

Engineering–*Specializing in military combat systems technologies, DCS provides a comprehensive and effective blend of core engineering support and program management disciplines to solve the unique and complex challenges associated with sensors, platform electronics, weapons, C4ISR and knowledge systems. DCS helps clients address unique and complex engineering, management and vision issues in defense systems acquisition and sustainment in support of our National defense. DCS, a privately-held and employee-owned company with…*

F-35 Continuous Process Improvement, Senior (REF 116)–
Performs critical program management, technical, or business analysis of major DoD acquisition systems and provides recommendations for the JPO Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) core team. Provide support in the development…

F-35 Configuration Management/ Technical Data Analyst (REF 65)–
Analyzes program requirements, status, budget and schedules. Performs program management, technical, or business case analyses. Participates as a member of and/or supports the specified Program Integrated Product…

Fairfax Water

Science–*Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is Virginia's largest water utility, serving one out of every five Virginians who obtain their water from public utilities. Nearly 1.5 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Alexandria depend on Fairfax Water for superior drinking water. That's 1.5 million friends, neighbors and family members. We don't need any other reason to demand the highest in water quality standards! Chartered in 1957 by the Virginia State Corporation Commission as a…*

Engineer I/II/III-Construction–
Seeking to hire Engineer for Construction Department to perform the following tasks, but not limited to: Assisting with the planning, direction and coordination of contractors, agents directing contractors, and large groups of engineering technicians involved…

Production Support Specialist I–*Herndon*
Under general supervision of the Supervisor, performs a wide range of activities to support the Production Division by coordinating logistical and technical support for Production meeting rooms, developing reports, trends and analysis from multiple databases and…

Alexandria City Public Schools

Education–*Alexandria City Public Schools is one of the most diverse school systems in the country and we celebrate that diversity. Our students come from more than 80 different countries, speak more than 60 languages, and represent a rainbow of ethnic and cultural groups. They are economically diverse, but all are rich in that the residents of Alexandria are dedicated to ensuring that each and every one of them achieves success. The children of Alexandria have benefited significantly from the strong support of City Council and the Alexandria community…*

Van Driver- General Pool–*Alexandria*
The Non-CDL School Bus/Van Driver transports students to/from individual campuses over scheduled routes utilizing either a school bus that does not mandate a Commercial Driver's License or a VDPE legal student passenger van. The driver will ensure that…

Bilingual Family and School Liaison– *Alexandria*
The School-based Parent Liaison creates a welcoming school environment for families; conducts outreach through a variety of communications to empower parents/guardians to be actively engaged in their children's education; organizes…

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Government Contractor–*Established in 1980, MIL provides innovative cyber, engineering, financial, and information technology services to the federal government. Our subject matter experts help advance customer operations through proven tools and methodologies. Dedicated to excellence, service, and support, MIL recognizes that sustained high-quality service delivery is a critical contributor to our success. We are recognized by our clients and industry professionals alike for our integrity, diligence, and expertise across our core service…*

Systems Administration, Senior Analyst (ServiceNow Administrator/ Developer)–*Remote*
Clearance Required: Public Trust. Education Required: BA/BS. US Citizenship: Required. The ServiceNow System Administrator maintains the stability and usability of the ServiceNow platform by…

Software Engineering, Associate (Linux)– *Charleston*
Clearance Required: Secret. Education Required: BA/BS. US Citizenship: Required. The MIL Corporation seeks a Software Engineer, Associate to support a Federal Government client at our Charleston, South Carolina location. As a member…

The Foundation Schools

Education–*The Foundation Schools has provided psychoeducational programs for students since 1975. A variety of talented staff members is needed to ensure the smooth and successful operation of the educational and clinical programs at our three schools located in Largo, Landover & Gaithersburg, Maryland. Our Administrative Office is located in Largo, Maryland. We offer a supportive working environment, excellent resources and a competitive salary and benefit package. The mission of The Foundation Schools is to serve the special…*

Clinical Case Manager–*Gaithersburg*
The Foundation Schools is a special education day school which delivers innovative school programs and support services for children and adolescents with emotional disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and other learning challenges. For over 40 years, the…

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)–*Gaithersburg*
The Foundation Schools is a special education day school which delivers innovative school programs and support services for children and adolescents with emotional disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and other learning challenges. For over…

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